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FAV... EXT STOP: PACKERS' TRAINING CAMP

...cker Report

VOL. 24 NO. 7 JULY 1996

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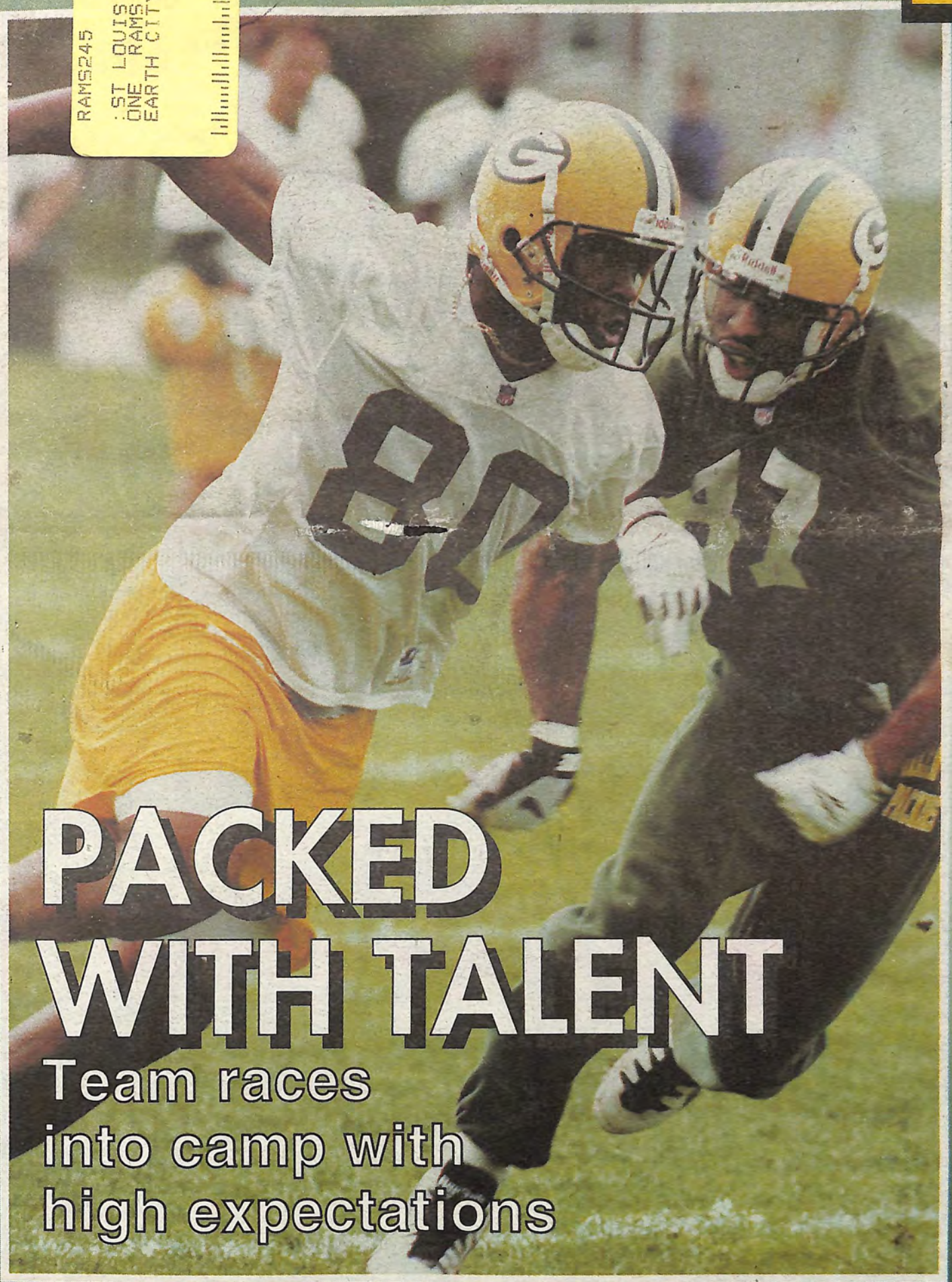
June minicamp coverage

Harlan celebrates 25 years

Teague back to full strength



PACKED WITH TALENT

Team races into camp with high expectations

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN BAY PACKERS

Packer Report

July 1996

ON THE COVER

Wide receiver Derrick Mayes (80) runs a pass route against cornerback Bucky Brooks (47) during the Green Bay Packers' recent June minicamp. Mayes and Brooks will each be competing for playing time this season for the Packers, who have improved depth. For more, see page 6-7.

Cover photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Quick recovery 5

Guard Aaron Taylor is making a successful recovery from surgery on his left knee and is hoping to be in 'football shape' by the time the regular season begins.

On his way 8

Quarterback Brett Favre was expected to be released by July 1 from the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kan., after receiving treatment for an addiction to painkillers.

Harlan 14-16

Packers' president Bob Harlan thought he would only be in Green Bay for a few years. More than 25 years later, he's still with the Pack and loving every minute of it.

Color poster 20-21

Photographer Mark A. Wallenfang features Packers' running back and special teams standout Travis Jervey in a game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers last year.

'Hawg' 22-23

Dave "Hawg" Hanner recently announced his retirement after an exceptional 45-year career with the Packers as a player, coach and scout.

Second best 26-27

Packers' general manager Ron Wolf evaluates each position on the team during the annual stockholders' meeting. He says the Packers are second to Dallas in the NFC.

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Next Issue

The next issue of *Packer Report* will be printed on July 29 and include a preview of the Packers' first preseason game, training camp news and features.

Reprints

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"Packer Trivia"

You can win "Packer Legends in Facts," a book by Eric Goska that retails for $29.95, just by answering a Packer trivia question. Each winner will be mailed one copy of the book within three to four weeks from the time the question is printed. There will be a random drawing in case there is more than one correct answer. To be eligible to win, all answers must be postmarked no later than one week from the date on the cover of the *Packer Report*. The answer to each question will be published two issues after it is printed.

To enter, write your name, address, phone number and answer on a postcard and send to: Packer Report, "Trivia contest," 1317 Lombardi Access Road, Green Bay, WI 54304. Here's the question:

Who caught the game-winning touchdown pass from quarterback Babe Parilli in the first game at Green Bay's City Stadium in 1957?

Answer to March question on page 23.

Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Brett Favre, center, is assisted by head trainer Pepper Burruss after Favre suffered a severely sprained ankle Nov. 5 against the Minnesota Vikings.

Pain's just part of game

Ray Nitschke

Featured columnist

There's no question that professional football is a physical and violent game. There's a lot of hitting that takes place and a lot of physical contact. Anybody who plays at that level will tell you there's a lot of physical pain. That's the nature of the game.

It's a game where you've got to have a high pain threshold. On each play something different happens. You're getting hit in the legs and arms, neck; there's something going on all the time from week to week.

When I played, I looked at injuries and pain as part of the price you had to pay in order to play and perform. You had to play with pain, but I also knew some guys that couldn't play because of the pain.

In today's game there's a different attitude. The guys playing now are a little wiser when it comes to injuries because there's so many more dollars involved. Some guys will take themselves out of a game now when in the past that used to be a no-no. But there are 30 teams now when there used to be just 12 teams that could be really selective with players.

In the past, if you wanted to play pro football, you had to play not with broken arms or legs, but almost always play with bumps and bruises. If you tore a ligament, you would have to tape it up and get back out there. Guys would get shots of cortisone in their ankles and shoulders and play. That's all part of the game – being ready to go. They never thought anything about it.

Pain is prevalent in football. You've got to go through it. Quarterbacks are no different than linebackers or anybody else on a team. It's a game that is going to result in a lot of pain, bruises and hurts. You have to play through that stuff, but that's what makes football players special.

Brett Favre is one of pro football's special players.

He's the type of guy who will give it everything he's got no matter what. Favre's recent public admission to a dependency on pain medication is a very serious thing at hand. But that just shows that he's competitive enough and smart enough to take care of himself.

I was proud when I first heard the announcement that he was looking for help and doing something about it. I didn't realize it was that serious with the seizure and everything and I don't know many other details. But I do know he needs help and is seeking help. He's man enough to help himself not only as a football player but as a human being. I give him a lot of credit. I take my hat off to him and I'm very proud of him.

Favre's career is important, but his life is even more important. He has to make sure he's healthy. You can play football without taking pain pills. He's a mentally and physically tough young man. He's got so much going for him. He was the league's most valuable player last year and that should add to his incentive this year to repeat his performance of 1995. He'll come back strong and I look forward to him being even better as a quarterback. He has the qualities that you look for in a quarterback and all of the God-given talent.

Now it's a matter of him getting healthy and going forward. He can do it. He's a tough guy, a tough hombre. He plays the game hard and he might even be better. He won't be dependent on these type of things. It's an attitude. The athlete I know he is, I'm sure he'll show he can do it and play the game without the things he had taken before. Hopefully, he will use the treatment as incentive to overcome this problem.

Pack sneaking up on 'Boys

Larry McCarren

Featured columnist

Hard to believe, but the next time we get together, training camp will be a couple of weeks old.

That makes our last chance to speculate, prognosticate or even pontificate before cold, hard facts start clouding the issue.

The Packers' steady climb back into the upper echelon of the National Football League has progressed so well that just one step remains – beating Dallas and advancing to the Super Bowl. (The way the NFC has dominated that game, we might as well say beating Dallas and winning the Super Bowl.)

The question of the pre-camp hour is: Has anything happened during the off-season that qualifies as a gap-closer, something that would lead us to believe that the result of the next playoff game against Dallas will be a little more palatable for Packer fans?

For starters, Packer free agent losses have been kept to a minimum. Offensively, we lost our backup quarterback, Ty Detmer. Defensively, the biggest name who'll be wearing a new uniform is John Jurkovic. Other players have departed, Mark Ingram and Fred Strickland to name a couple, but if you're talking players that the Packers wanted back in their lineup, only one, Jurko, is gone.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch (Valley Ranch, where the Cowboys train), four starters, all from the Cowboys defense, have packed up their Super Bowl rings and decided to seek possible fame and guaranteed fortune elsewhere. The free agent playing field currently tilts in favor of Green Bay.

Dallas has such salary cap problems that losing players is inevitable while adding others is almost unthinkable. The Packers, however, will have a better pass rush up the middle (Santana Dotson) and a more athletic middle linebacker (Ron Cox). That tilt is leaning a little more toward Green Bay.

Oddly enough, both teams had a marquee player with a major off-season problem: Brett Favre's addiction to painkillers and Michael Irvin's choice of late night recreational activities that happens to be illegal.

At press time, those closest to Brett say he's weathered the storm in rehab, sounds more like himself and is ready for the challenges, both personal and professional, that lie ahead. Those closest to Irvin are videotaping his further adventures for profit or to avoid prosecution themselves.

Both players did have an off-season problem, but that's the only similarity. The solution to Brett's will be decided by Brett, while a jury will decide the fate of Michael Irvin. Knowing Brett and the way he rises to the occasion, it's a good bet he'll rise to this one. The more you know about Irvin, the more you wonder if he's headed to jail.

Bottom line. Given the personalities and the problems, Favre and the Packers would seem to have a much better chance of returning to business as usual than Irvin and the Cowboys. Don't know if that qualifies as a gap-closer, but it certainly doesn't hurt.

I have to be honest. Yours truly hasn't seen a single Cowboy draft choice at a minicamp, but he has seen every Packer pick and this is a good group. John Michels, Derrick Mayes, Mike Flanagan and Tyrone Williams all look like real players. Perhaps Dallas' top four picks are equally impressive, but Jerry Jones masterminded their draft, while Ron Wolf is the brains behind ours. 'Nuf said.

There are reasons to believe the Packers have closed the gap on Dallas this off-season, both in steps forward on their part, and steps backward by the Cowboys.

Of course, when a team still has Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, Deion Sanders and a dominating offensive line, those steps will have to be substantial.

Have the Packers progressed far enough to get past Dallas and into the Super Bowl? Try as we may, the answer doesn't lie in *Packer Report*, but on the field where it belongs.

Rising stars refuse to fizzle

Bennett, Chmura working extra hard to continue success

Todd Korth

Packer beat

Edgar Bennett and Mark Chmura would rather look back at their personal performances last year more as building blocks rather than flukes.

There are some who will disagree with that, but Bennett and Chmura have worked a little harder this off-season in an effort to reproduce the solid numbers they put up in 1995.

Both players have started by keeping themselves in excellent shape. Bennett, who had his ankle operated on in January, reported to the recent June minicamp at a solid 215 pounds. He said he planned to push trucks around and run stadium steps under the guidance of a personal trainer in Jacksonville, Fla., after the minicamp in an effort to improve his power and hopefully his breakaway speed.

Meanwhile, Chmura said that he has been working out up to six hours a day during the off-season in the Packers' weight room. He wants to be the strongest man on the team when the players are tested during the upcoming training camp.

Bennett and Chmura know they will draw more attention from opponents' this season after breakthrough years in 1995 when they both emerged from relative obscurity and into the highlight reels of a very successful season for the Green Bay Packers.

Bennett became the first Packers running back since 1978 to rush for more than 1,000 yards. He also chipped in with another 648 receiving yards. Chmura caught a career-high 54 passes and seven touchdowns, and started at tight end for the National Football Conference in the Pro Bowl.

In 1994 Bennett rushed for 623 yards in 178 carries and Chmura caught a total of 14 passes for 165 yards.

So will Bennett be able to surpass the 1,067 yards he gained rushing and 648 receiving in '95? Will Chmura play well enough to make another trip to Hawaii?

Critics say the only reason Bennett

Bennett

Chmura

surpassed 1,000 yards is because he had a club record 316 carries for an average of just 3.4 yards per game. Chmura obviously benefited by Keith Jackson's 91-day holdout and never did relinquish his starting spot. He had two 100-yard receiving games and a number of spectacular catches.

Bennett, who was slowed by nagging injuries throughout the season, including the preseason, feels he can pass the 1,000-yard mark again despite plans by the coaching staff to spread the carries out to other backs this season.

"I'm not going to worry about that right now, but that is one of my goals," Bennett said. "As long as the team is successful I think quite naturally I will be successful because I want to do everything in my power to help the team get to the Super Bowl, however, it is one of my goals as far as going back-to-back in case y'all are thinking it was a fluke."

Chmura knows he is among the elite tight ends in the National Football League and has been doing everything in his power to improve. In addition to his rigorous workout routine, he said he has been studying film of a couple of other Pro Bowl tight ends – Dallas' Jay Novecek and San Francisco's Brent Jones – to learn how they handle the extra attention from opposing defenses.

He also doesn't want to be known as a one-year wonder. Despite a vastly increased number of appearances, a new clothing line, modeling and even acting offers, Chmura has made football job one this off-season because he knows what lies ahead.

"I'm sure I'm going to get a lot more attention out there on the field," Chmura said. "It's going to take harder work than last year because I was a relatively unknown at the beginning of the season. This year is going to be a different story. But it's great being in an offense like this where you have so many weapons. If they are going to try and take me out of the game, someone is going to be open."

The parallels between the two indicate they are rising stars within the Packer organization.

Bennett and Chmura were each drafted by the Packers in 1992, Bennett in the fourth round and Chmura in the sixth.

Bennett received a contract extension last season and Chmura re-signed for another three years in February. They each had stepped into the spotlight in '95.

A big drop-off by either of the two doesn't seem likely. More likely, both will be prominent in the Packers' plans for the next couple of years fueled, of course, by a drive to continue their recent success.

Training camp roster

QUARTERBACKS

No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	How Acq.	College
4	Brett Favre	6-2	220	26	6	T-92 (Atl.)	Southern Miss.
7	Kyle Wachholtz	6-4	238	24	R	D-7a	Southern Cal.
9	Jim McMahon	6-1	195	36	15	W-95 (Clev.)	Brigham Young
18	Doug Pederson	6-3	212	27	3	FA-95	NE Louisiana

RUNNING BACKS

32	Travis Jervey	6-0	225	23	2	D5b-95	The Citadel
34	Edgar Bennett	6-0	217	27	5	D4-92	Florida State
43	James Bostic	6-0	225	24	2	FA-96	Auburn
44	Chris Darkins	6-0	211	22	R	D4-96	Minnesota

FULLBACKS

24	Robert Baldwin	5-11	230	23	1	T-96 (Atl.)	Duke
25	Dorsey Levens	6-1	240	25	3	D5b-94	Georgia Tech
30	William Henderson	6-2	248	25	2	D3b-95	North Carolina
38	Brian Satterfield	6-0	225	26	2	FA-95	North Alabama

WIDE RECEIVERS

2	Eric Matthews	5-11	169	24	R	FA-96	Indiana
16	Rob Carpenter	6-2	190	27	5	FA-96	Syracuse
19	Allen DeGraffenreid	6-2	210	25	1	FA-96	Ohio State
20	Charlie Simmons	6-3	210	23	1	FA-96 (D6-95)	Georgia-Tech
80	Derrick Mayes	6-1	201	22	R	D2-96	Notre Dame
81	Anthony Morgan	6-1	200	28	6	W-93 (Chi.)	Tennessee
82	Don Beebe	5-11	183	31	8	FA-96	Chadron (Neb.) St.
85	Terry Mickens	6-1	198	25	3	D5a-94	Florida A & M
86	Antonio Freeman	6-1	187	23	2	D3d-95	Virginia Tech
87	Robert Brooks	6-0	180	25	5	D3-92	South Carolina

TIGHT ENDS

49	Kevin Smith	6-4	265	26	3	FA-96	UCLA
83	Jeff Thomason	6-5	250	26	4	FA-95	Oregon
84	Mike Bartrum	6-5	243	25	3	FA-95	Marshall
89	Mark Chmura	6-5	250	27	5	D6-92	Boston College

CENTERS

50	Mike Arthur	6-3	280	27	6	T-95 (N.E.)	Texas A & M
52	Frank Winters	6-3	295	32	10	PB-92	Western Illinois
58	Mike Flanagan	6-5	290	23	R	D-3b	UCLA

OFFENSIVE TACKLES

70	Jeff Miller	6-4	295	23	2	D4-95	Mississippi
72	Earl Dotson	6-4	310	25	4	D3-93	Texas A & I
75	Ken Ruettgers	6-6	292	33	12	D1-85	Southern Cal.
76	Troy Stark	6-6	302	23	R	FA-96	Georgia
77	John Michels	6-7	290	23	R	D1-96	Southern Cal.

GUARDS

62	Marco Rivera	6-4	295	24	R	D6-96	Penn State
63	Adam Timmerman	6-4	288	24	2	D7-95	South Dakota St.
73	Aaron Taylor	6-4	305	23	3	D1-94	Notre Dame

GUARDS/TACKLES

64	Bruce Wilkerson	6-5	305	32	10	FA-96	Tennessee
65	Lindsay Knapp	6-6	290	26	4	T-95 (K.C.)	Notre Dame
68	Gary Brown	6-4	315	24	3	W-94 (Pitt.)	Georgia Tech

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	How Acq.	College
71	Santana Dotson	6-5	275	26	5	UFA-96 (T.B.)	Baylor
74	Walter Scott	6-3	282	23	R	FA-96	East Carolina
79	Brad Keeney	6-3	294	22	R	FA-96	The Citadel
90	Darius Holland	6-5	305	22	2	D3a-95	Colorado
93	Gilbert Brown	6-2	325	25	4	W-93 (Minn.)	Kansas
94	Bob Kuberski	6-5	300	24	2	D7-93	Navy

DEFENSIVE ENDS

67	Wendall Gaines	6-5	290	24	3	FA-96	Oklahoma State
78	Toddrick McIntosh	6-3	275	24	3	T-96 (N.O.)	Florida State
91	Shannon Clavelle	6-2	287	23	2	FA-95	Colorado
92	Reggie White	6-5	300	34	12	UFA-93 (Phil.)	Tennessee
96	Sean Jones	6-7	283	33	13	UFA-94 (Hou.)	Northeastern
98	Gabe Wilkins	6-5	310	24	3	D4-94	Gardner-Webb

LINEBACKERS

51	Brian Williams	6-2	240	23	2	D3c-95	Southern Cal.
53	George Koonce	6-1	243	27	5	FA-92	East Carolina
54	Ron Cox	6-2	235	28	7	UFA-96	Fresno State
55	Bernardo Harris	6-2	243	24	2	FA-95	North Carolina
56	Reggie Barnes	6-1	237	26	3	FA-96	Oklahoma
57	Robert Bass	6-1	239	25	2	FA-95	Miami (Fla.)
59	Wayne Simmons	6-3	248	26	4	D1a-93	Clemson
95	Keith McKenzie	6-3	242	23	R	D7b-96	Ball State
99	Lamont Hollinquest	6-3	243	25	3	FA-96	Southern Cal.

CORNERBACKS

21	Craig Newsome	6-0	188	24	2	D1-95	Arizona State
23	Matthew Dorsett	5-11	187	22	2	FA-95	Southern
33	Doug Evans	6-1	190	25	4	D6a-93	Louisiana Tech
37	Tyrone Williams	5-11	190	23	R	D3b-96	Nebraska
45	Keith Crawford	6-2	198	25	3	FA-94	Howard Payne
47	Bucky Brooks	6-0	185	25	2	FA-95	North Carolina

SAFETIES

28	Roderick Mullen	6-1	204	23	2	FA-95	Grambling
31	George Teague	6-1	195	25	4	D1b-93	Alabama
36	LeRoy Butler	6-0	200	27	7	D2-90	Florida State
39	Mike Prior	6-0	208	32	11	UFA-93 (Ind.)	Illinois State
40	Cary Brabham	6-0	195	25	2	FA-96	SMU
41	Eugene Robinson	6-0	195	33	12	T-96 (Seattle)	Colgate
46	Reggie Holt	5-11	198	25	1	FA-95	Wisconsin

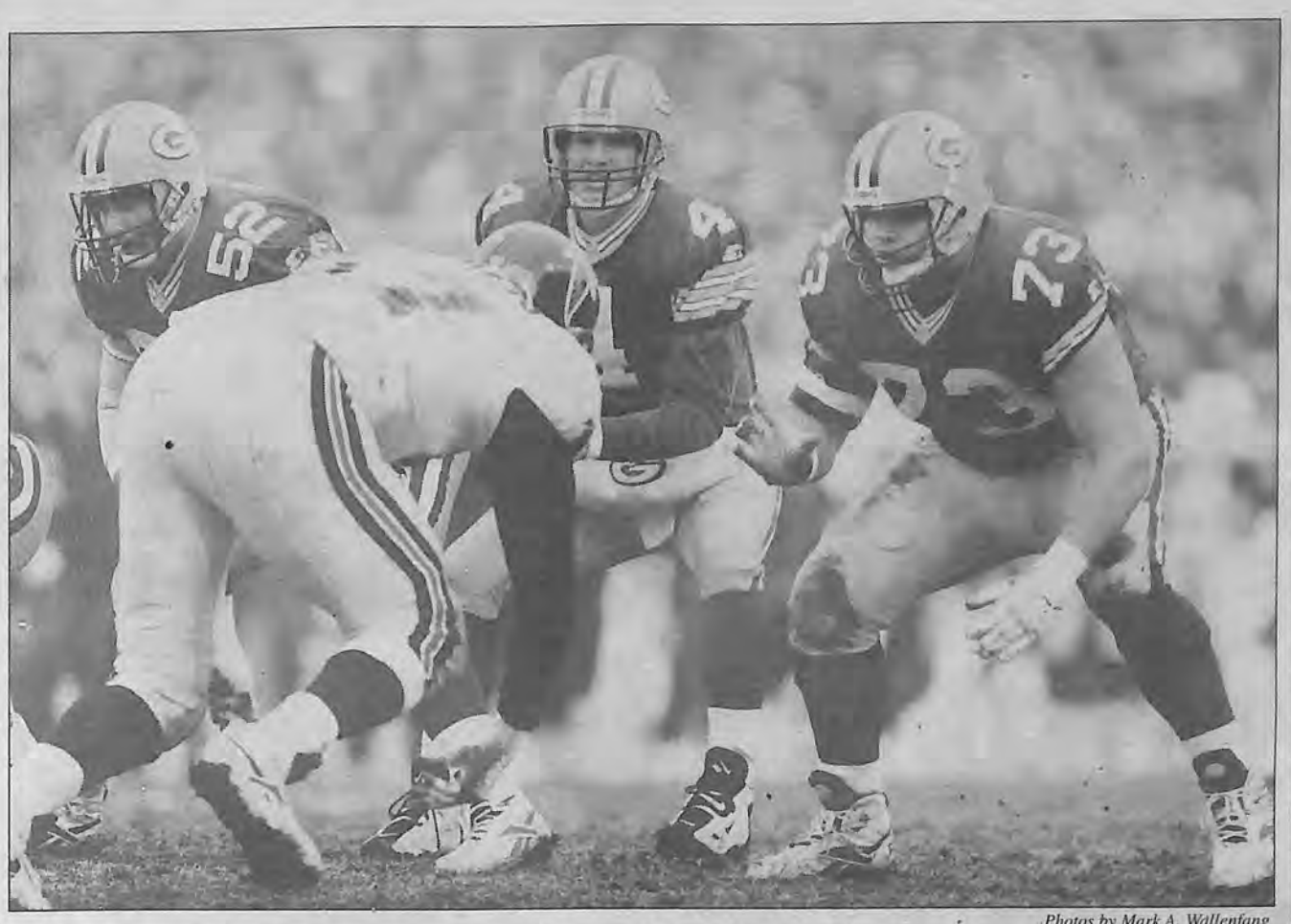
KICKERS

8	Richie Cunningham	5-10	165	25	1	FA-96	SW Louisiana
13	Chris Jacke	6-0	205	30	8	D6-89	Texas-El Paso

PUNTERS

6	Andy Caflisch	6-3	200	25	1	FA-96	Wis.-Stout
17	Craig Hentrich	6-3	200	24	3	FA-93	Notre Dame

Roster as of June 28, 1996



Photos by Mark A. Wallenfang

Left photo, Aaron Taylor (73) injured his left knee while blocking Atlanta's Jumpy Geathers, left, during the first round of the playoffs last year. Right photo, Taylor jogs during the recent June minicamp.

High-stepping through rehab

Taylor keeps chin up, makes quick recovery from second knee injury

By Todd Korth

Aaron Taylor will likely return to play guard for the Green Bay Packers near the end of the upcoming preseason or early in the regular season.

When he does, he'll be stronger than he has ever been before – in the knees.

Taylor was cruising along in his 'rookie' season last year. He started every game for the Packers and was helping Green Bay fend off the Atlanta Falcons in the opening game of the playoffs at Lambeau Field until he met up with the Falcons' Jumpy Geathers late in the second quarter.

Taylor, who is 6-foot-4 and 305 pounds, dug in against the 6-foot-7, 300-pound Geathers as the Packers were deep in Falcons' territory. Taylor held his own until his left knee caved in from the pressure put on by Geathers.

The pain Taylor felt was too familiar.

Taylor, the Packers' first-round draft choice in 1994, tore the patellar tendon in his right knee during a drill in Green Bay's June minicamp. He sat out the entire '94 season before returning to earn a spot as the team's starting left guard in the 1995 training camp.

This time, the tendon ruptured in his other knee, causing Taylor to miss Green Bay's playoff games against the San Francisco 49ers and Dallas Cowboys. He also was facing an identical rehabilitation routine that he went through with the right knee. Worst of all, though, was the fact that he couldn't play against the 49ers in San Francisco where he attended high school in nearby Concord. To add insult to injury, he wasn't allowed to make the trip.

"It was hard," Taylor said. "San Francisco (game) was harder on me than anything. It was at home against my family and friends. I was playing against my best friend Bryant Young. We went to college together. We had a chance to go to the NFC Championship Game. You're at home and I was sitting there with stitches in my knee.

"That game was more wear and tear on me than Dallas. By the time the Dallas game came around, it pretty much sunk in that it was over for me and I just wanted to cheer the guys on the best I could."

Taylor had surgery on the left knee a few days after the Falcons' game and now has about a 4- to 5-inch scar like the one that runs north to south over his right knee cap.

Fortunately, the tendon damage in his left knee wasn't as severe as the right knee. That has meant a quicker recovery and a more aggressive rehabilitation for Taylor.

Unlike the right knee, Packers' team physician Dr. Patrick McKenzie used a different surgical technique on Taylor's left knee, according to assistant trainer Sam Ramsden. McKenzie ran a stainless steel wire from top of the patella, down and around the patella along the sides, through the bump or bone where doctors check for reflexes and then back up and around the knee cap.

"What he did is he reinforced his surgery with wire," Ramsden said. "What that allowed us to do is be more aggressive with rehab as far as earlier range of motion. The wire would then protect the graft (repair) in the surgery to keep it from getting stretched out and injured."

The wire was taken out about two months after the surgery.

Ramsden, who has worked with Taylor every day during the rehab as well as every day of the rehab of his right knee, said Taylor has taken a positive approach toward recovering.

"From the get-go he was not negative," Ramsden said. "He could have went, 'Oh, God, here we go again.' He took it as 'I already know what this is all about. I can do this again.' He was very positive right away from the get-go. That mental strength that he has shown has carried over into his physical effort."

Ramsden said Taylor has made "excellent" progress so far "with a great prognosis for a return to being a football player."

Taylor started running in early June and worked on offensive line functional type movement in addition to numerous other exercises.

"Very rudimentary, very elementary and he's just progressing along," Ramsden said.

Taylor will be working on strength, running and cardiovascular conditioning until the start of training camp when trainers will begin to get him 'football ready.'

"There's a big difference between him being ready to run and move and cut and jump and do everything," said Ramsden. "Then there's a whole other process in getting him ready to be in 'football' shape. There's a big difference. You go with the pads on and try to beat a guy up."

Taylor is hoping he can be 'football' ready by the start of the regular season against Tampa Bay, and he's aware of what could happen if he tries to do too much too soon.

"Right now, I feel great," Taylor said. "We're going to push it until we're not feeling well, then we're going to back off a bit so we don't have a setback. There's a lot to be said about less is more. Taking little steps is better than taking one giant step and two steps backward, which is what I did last year when I had a setback right before training camp. We've done a very good job of avoiding that."

Once back, he says he'll try to improve on his 'rookie' season that he described as "very typical."

"I would do things well and some things very well, and I would do some things badly and some things very badly," Taylor said. "I think inconsistency hurt me more than anything. I would do something great, do something well the way it's taught. Then I'd come back and do something that was stupid. I couldn't believe that I did it. I was able to go throughout the course of the year and as I reflect back on it, there's definitely things that I need to work on that will make me a better player."

The main thing now is just getting back on the field and playing.

"He's very anxious to play, but he's very anxious to make sure that he comes back without a setback," Ramsden said. "And we don't want him to come back too early. We want to make sure that we're doing everything we can so we can have him ready for the first game. That's our goal. Get him ready for game one. Obviously you'd like to see him in that last preseason game, but we're not putting any pressure on him whatsoever."

Stiff competition

Improvement in talent evident at June minicamp

By Todd Korth

It was voluntary, but the Green Bay Packers' recent minicamp seemed to be an imperative part of the off-season for many players.

Only a handful of veterans did not attend the June 3-12 minicamp, which is usually a chance for rookies and free agents to get a better feel for the Packers' offense and defense. But the minicamp served as a sneak preview for the Packers' 1996 training camp that officially opens on July 18.

The minicamp had a little of everything, including some great offensive and defensive plays and even a brief scuffle. It was intense and very competitive for obvious reasons.

"This year in training camp, for the first time, we're going to release players that are real fine players and should play in the league," Packers coach Mike Holmgren said. "Our team is just getting better and that's an indication, I think."

The no-shows included Brett Favre, Reggie White, George Koonce and Sean Jones. Favre was in Topeka, Kan., receiving treatment for his recent admission of an addiction to pain medication; White was completing work on his new film titled "Reggie's Prayer;" and Koonce was attending classes at East Carolina. Many of the veterans attended part of the minicamp and then were excused because of other commitments.

"Four or five years ago when I was first here, it was really just rookies and free agents," said tight end Mark Chmura. "Now about 90 percent of the guys are at least coming in for a couple of days and getting some work done."

All are expected to be back in time for the opening of training camp when the Packers begin their quest toward the Super Bowl.

"Nothing less than the Super Bowl," said offensive coordinator Sherman Lewis. "The expectations are high and we want them to be high. We want to get to the next level and that's the Super Bowl."

Here's a brief look at the progress at each position from the recent minicamp:

Quarterbacks: With Favre unable to attend, backups Jim McMahon, Doug Pederson and Kyle Wachholtz received plenty of repetitions.

McMahon attended two days of the seven-day minicamp. The 36-year-old said he has no doubts in his mind that he can play for an extended period of time if needed this season.

"I wouldn't be here if there were any doubts in my mind," McMahon said. "I haven't been hit in three years. I feel great. My body feels good. I'm just trying to get my wind back over the next month and I'll be ready to go."

Pederson and Wachholtz led the offense through the majority of the drills and scrimmages. Both are battling for the third spot behind Favre and McMahon.

"They're competing, but Pederson has the jump and has the edge," Holmgren said.

If Pederson makes the team as the third backup, Wachholtz, a rookie from Southern California, will probably be placed on the practice squad.

Running backs: Both second-year pro Travis Jervey and rookie Chris Darkins will be competing to back up Edgar Bennett.

Bennett, who had arthroscopic surgery on his ankle in January, entered camp in great shape, about 215 pounds. He feels he can duplicate his 1,000-yard season rushing as long as the team is successful. He also has stepped up his off-season training program and hopes to compete this season around 212 pounds.

"Running more stadium steps for more power and explosion type of running," Bennett said. "There are a few more wrinkles that I'm not going to tell you all about."

Jervey and Darkins are two of the fastest Packers on the team. Both have 4.3-second speed in the 40-yard dash, but Jervey has had a season to grasp the team's offense, which will probably give him the edge over Darkins, a fourth-round pick from Minnesota.

Robert Baldwin participated in the final three practices of the minicamp. Baldwin came to the Packers on June 6 in a trade with the Atlanta Falcons for cornerback Lenny McGill.

Baldwin will be fighting for a spot on the team as a fullback with Dorsey Levens, William Henderson and Brian Satterfield.

"He's a big guy. A slammer," said Holmgren. "You need those guys certainly in the preseason and in training camp because the backs get nicked up a little bit. It gives us another big blocker, fullback."

The team will likely keep three running backs and two fullbacks.

Offensive line: Tackle Ken Ruettgers and guard Aaron Taylor attended the camp but practiced on their own and offered tips to the newer linemen.

Ruettgers has missed all three off-season minicamps because of arthroscopic surgery on his knee in March. The 12th-year pro is expected to be practicing by the time training camp opens.

Ruettgers could often be seen offering tips to Green Bay's top draft choice John Michels from Southern California.

"I talked to (offensive line coach) Tom Lovat about him and he feels real good about his (Michels) progress," said Lewis.

Taylor, who ruptured a tendon in his left knee in the playoffs against Atlanta last year, will likely return by the time the season begins, according to coaches and trainers.

In the meantime, Michels has been playing left tackle next to Adam Timmerman at left guard, Frank Winters at center, Gary Brown at right guard and Earl Dotson at right tackle.

When Taylor returns, Timmerman will either be used as a backup to Taylor or start ahead of Brown at right guard, the position left open by Green Bay's decision not to re-sign veteran Harry Galbreath.

Center Mike Arthur, who came to the Packers last year in a trade with the New England Patriots, has been practicing as a backup to Winters and also at left guard.

Veteran Bruce Wilkerson, who signed with the Packers as a free agent, will probably be the top backup at right tackle.

Tight ends: Negotiations continue between former Pro Bowler Keith Jackson and the Packers, but it is unlikely that Jackson will re-sign with the Packers

SEE **MINICAMP** PAGE 7

Photos by Allen Fredrickson

Receiver Allen DeGraffenreid, left, and cornerback Craig Newsome got into a brief scuffle near the end of the recent minicamp. Both players exchanged words and shoves, but they settled their differences afterward.

Defensive tackle Gilbert Brown works on his form during a drill.

Minicamp

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

before the start of training camp.

Packers general manager Ron Wolf has said re-signing Jackson "will take awhile." Wolf has also expressed that he is content with the tight ends currently on the roster but would like to have Jackson on the roster as icing on the cake.

Chmura has worked hard in the off-season physically and mentally in preparation for more attention from opposing defenses. Besides helping the team win the Super Bowl, he also is aiming for a return trip to the Pro Bowl.

"You've got that Pro Bowl tag and that's something you really have to live up to," Chmura said. "I don't want it to be the only time that I went to the Pro Bowl was last year. I want to go every year. Hawaii's a pretty good place in February."

Jeff Thomason and Mike Bartrum have shown improvement as the backups to Chmura. Free agent Kevin Smith has made some nice catches during practices.

Wide receivers: The most competitive position on the team got even stronger when the Packers signed Rob Carpenter, who was the third receiver with the Philadelphia Eagles last year.

Carpenter joins a talented group led by Robert Brooks, Anthony Morgan, Antonio Freeman, Don Beebe, Terry Mickens, Derrick Mayes and Charlie Simmons. Even free agents Allan DeGraffenreid and Eric Matthews have been impressive.

What will it take for a player to make the five or six positions the Packers will reserve for receivers?

"The biggest thing is he's got to stay healthy and he's got to catch the ball," said receivers coach Gil Haskell. "That sounds very simple but it's not. They've got to keep their legs in shape and then they've got to catch the ball."

Defensive line: Defensive line coach Larry Brooks just laughed and shook his head when asked to rank the Packers' line to others in the National Football League.

"I don't know, but I'm impressed with them," Brooks said. "I think we've got a quality group of guys. But to say they're compared to this group and that group, (expletive) I don't know."

With White and Jones at each end and Santana Dotson and Gilbert Brown in the middle, the Packers should have a greatly improved line.

Brooks said Brown, who is unusually quick despite his 325-pound frame, has the capability of having a breakthrough season.

"I expect him to be in the Pro Bowl next year," said Brooks. "If he stays healthy he'll be in the Pro Bowl.

"He's a big man that's gifted with great athletic ability. Our biggest goal is to make sure he's healthy to start the season and turn him loose."

Brown tore ligaments in his knee late in the 1994 season and returned only to sprain a ligament in his left elbow in the season opener against the St. Louis Rams.

He began starting at defensive tackle against Cleveland on Nov. 19, giving the Packers' run defense a boost inside.

Brooks said Dotson, who came to the Packers this off-season as an unrestricted free agent from Tampa Bay, has a good grasp of the team's defensive schemes.

"I think if you look at it, Santana has a special thing that you put him in and he's going to create that inside havoc that we've really lacked," Brooks said. "That's what we bring him in for. I think with him and with Reggie going over there. It's going to make it limited as to who you can double team. That's what we need to do."

Second-year pros Bob Kuberski and Darius Holland will likely be the top reserves at the tackle positions.

Defensive ends: White and Jones did not attend the minicamp. That gave second-year pro Shannon Clavelle and other newcomers such as Wendall Gaines, Tommie Stowers and Toddrick McIntosh a chance to prove their worth.

Defensive end Matt LaBounty attended minicamp but did individual workouts. He is recovering from a groin injury and is expected to be ready by the start of training camp.

Defensive end Gabe Wilkins sprained his ankle during the second day of minicamp and was held out of the remaining practices. Wilkins has been playing at right defensive end in the team's three off-season minicamps. Last year, he was used as a tackle and end because of injuries to other players.

"I'm expecting Gabe to come in and make a run for the job out there myself," Brooks said. "Heck, this is his fourth year, (expletive) he might as well make a step and might as well make a run for it."

Linebackers: Ron Cox says he's ready and the coaches agree that he is more than capable to play the middle linebacker or 'mike' position.

"What we've seen so far is that Ron has adapted quite well to the middle," said linebackers coach Jim Lind. "Ron is what we call a 'downhill player,' which you have to be if you're going to play in the middle.

"So far, we haven't seen any real problems adjusting to the middle."

Koonce and Wayne Simmons are the starting outside linebackers, and second-year pro Bernardo Harris will enter training camp as the top reserve as a middle and outside linebacker.

"Right now he's battling Ron Cox at the 'mike' spot," said Lind. "He also has to learn the strong outside linebacker position. We'll see how that shakes down."

Cox says the three minicamps have been valuable to him.

"I'm my hardest critic," Cox said. "I know if I get a little bit better tomorrow, every day, at the end of this damn thing, when we line up against Tampa Bay or the Raiders (in preseason) or whoever, I'll be ready. That's my goal now. I just want to get a little better every day and focus more on my pass (defense) in and out, relax a little bit more because my drops are different. It's coming now. I'm starting to feel it. Before you know it, I'm going to be running around having fun."

Green Bay is also hoping Brian Williams can turn the corner this season and be more productive. Williams, a third-round draft pick in 1995 from Southern California, was slowed by nagging injuries last year and mainly played on special teams.

Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Quarterback Jim McMahon, spending his first off-season in the shadow of Lambeau Field, gets ready to practice.

"Brian has had an excellent camp," Lind said. "He is really moving around extremely well. His instincts and coverage are good as far as versus the run and coverage. We're very pleased right now with what we see. Of course, right now the next step is to put the pads on because that's a different story."

Rookie Keith McKenzie drew the attention of the coaching staff with his pass-rushing ability. The seventh-round pick from Ball State was drafted as an outside linebacker. Through two minicamps he has been impressive, displaying his speed, quickness and initial takeoff.

Cornerbacks: By trading Lenny McGill to the Atlanta Falcons, the Packers showed they are fairly comfortable with the cornerbacks they have.

"I think we have pretty good depth and we're putting a primary importance on speed back there," said Holmgren.

Craig Newsome stayed in Green Bay during the off-season and has kept himself in excellent shape. He will be starting at the left corner opposite Doug Evans.

The Packers have been impressed so far with second-year pro Matthew Dorsett, rookie Tyrone Williams and former receivers Keith Crawford and Bucky Brooks. All are very fast and will likely see playing time in the team's pass defense as the 'nickel' back. Dorsett has moved himself up from rookie free agent status last year to perhaps the top reserve at cornerback.

Safeties: Free agent safety Vencie Glenn, who played with the Minnesota Vikings from 1992-94, visited the Packers during the latter part of the minicamp but the Packers appear to have dropped their interest in signing the free agent.

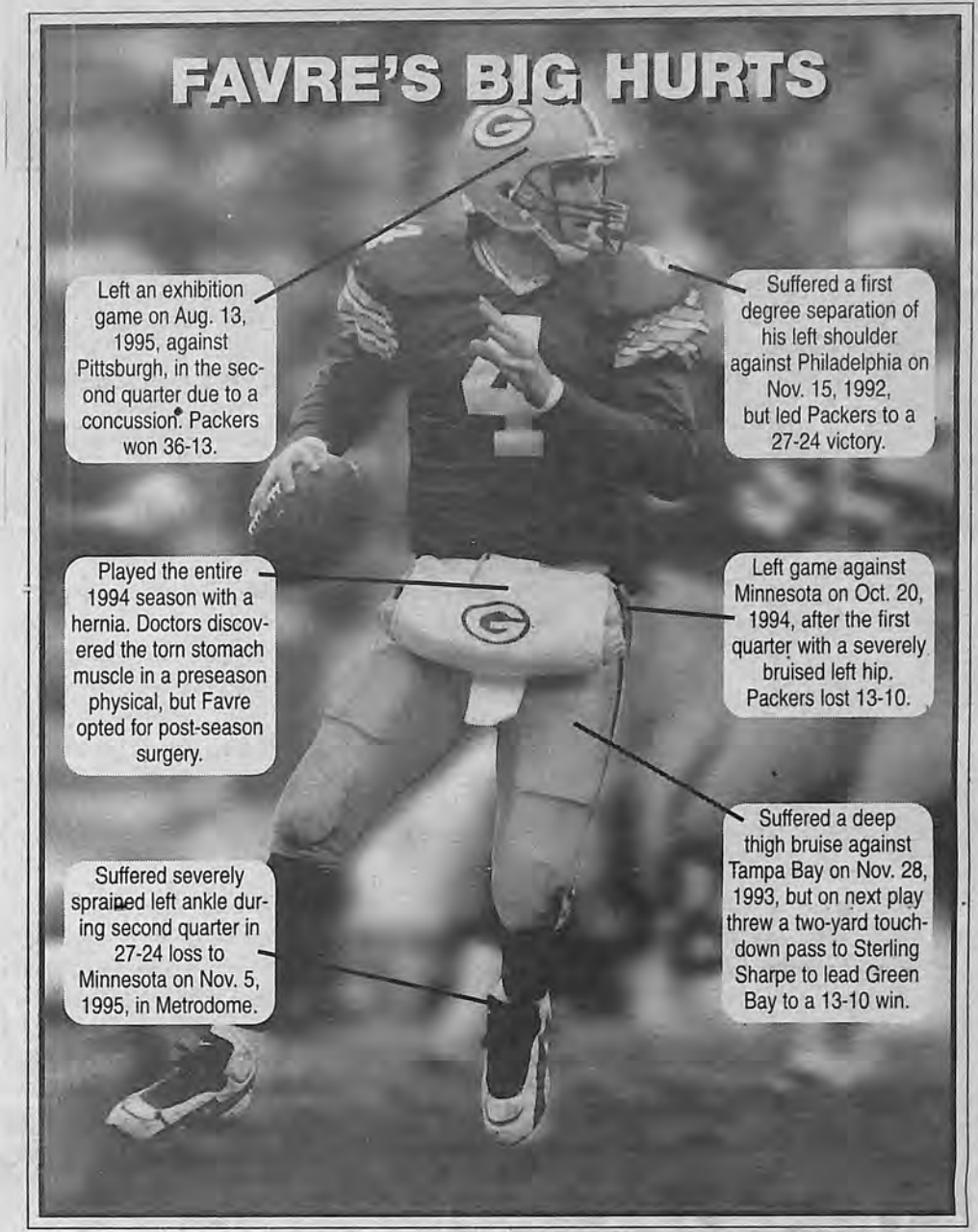
Green Bay is hoping George Teague will rebound off a toe injury that he played with late in the season last year and improve his production.

The Packers are also hoping for a boost from Reggie Holt, who was on the team's practice squad for all of last season until the Packers played Dallas in the National Football Conference Championship Game, and Mike Prior.

Teague and Holt were impressive during the minicamp.

Kickers: There were no kickers present for the June minicamp.

The team signed placekicker Richie Cunningham and punter Andy Caflisch to push incumbents Chris Jacke and Craig Hentrich during training camp.


FAVRE'S BIG HURTS
Left an exhibition game on Aug. 13, 1995, against Pittsburgh, in the second quarter due to a concussion. Packers won 36-13.
Suffered a first degree separation of his left shoulder against Philadelphia on Nov. 15, 1992, but led Packers to a 27-24 victory.
Played the entire 1994 season with a hernia. Doctors discovered the torn stomach muscle in a preseason physical, but Favre opted for post-season surgery.
Left game against Minnesota on Oct. 20, 1994, after the first quarter with a severely bruised left hip. Packers lost 13-10.
Suffered a deep thigh bruise against Tampa Bay on Nov. 28, 1993, but on next play threw a two-yard touchdown pass to Sterling Sharpe to lead Green Bay to a 13-10 win.
Suffered severely sprained left ankle during second quarter in 27-24 loss to Minnesota on Nov. 5, 1995, in Metrodome.

Favre likely to return by training camp

By Todd Korth

Brett Favre, derailed this off-season by an addiction to pain medication, is getting right back on track toward a successful recovery and a return to the Green Bay Packers.

Favre was expected to be released from the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kan., by July 1, according to Packers coach Mike Holmgren, who visited Favre on June 10.

When the Green Bay Packers' star quarterback returns to Green Bay he will have to do some catching up as far as conditioning himself for the start of the upcoming training camp, but he will no doubt be in better condition mentally.

"He's doing great, doing great," said Favre's agent James "Bus" Cook. "He's looking forward to the season."

Favre, the National Football League's most valuable player last year, voluntarily entered the league's substance abuse program on May 14 when he said he was addicted to pain medication. He went to the Menninger Clinic the next day to begin his treatment and is expected to be back with the team when training camp opens on July 18.

"I certainly hope so," said Cook. "Those are things I have no knowledge of, but if I were a guessing person, I would say he will be there."

Holmgren said in reports near the end of the recent June minicamp that Favre was "doing good" and that he expects to see Favre again by July 1. Other than that, Holmgren has declined to elaborate any further on Favre until he returns to Green Bay.

"We made our statement," said Holmgren at the start of the minicamp. "We know he's in a rehab clinic. We're praying for him and he just has to get better. I'm not going to answer anything. I don't know very much first of all.

"He's missed, but more important than the football part of this is that he gets healthy."

Favre has been receiving treatment at the NFL-sanctioned clinic for what many reports have indicated is the painkiller Vicodin, a semi-synthetic narcotic with an effect similar to codeine.

Under Stage One of the program, self-referred players are evaluated, a treatment plan is established and the player will be given all the necessary treatment. Favre has received drug tests while in treatment, but due to the confidentiality of the program, it is not known whether he has become addicted to any other substances.

"I'm going into an in-patient treatment facility for as long as it takes to get better," Favre said during his stunning announcement. "My objective is to get better so I can continue to play at the level I have and to get to the Super Bowl."

Favre decided to seek immediate help after suffering a lengthy and scary seizure while recovering from ankle surgery at St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay in February.

Under the guidance of team physicians Dr. Patrick McKenzie and Dr. John Gray, Favre decided to lick his dependence on pain medication, which has been traced back as far as July of 1990 when he was injured in a car accident before his senior season at Southern Mississippi.

He reportedly began using Vicodin heavily during the 1995 season to help him overcome a throbbing turf toe, a bruised right shoulder, an arthritic right hip, a bruised left knee and a sore lower back. Because of the pills' dulling effect on the senses, he did not take them before games, and he downplayed how much he was using the pills to friends on the team and coaches.

But his dependence on the painkiller came to a head in February when he took as many as 13 pills in one night, according to a story in *Sports Illustrated*. After he suffered the seizure, he said he stopped taking them "cold turkey."

Only a few people were able to visit Favre during his stay at the clinic and he was only allowed to make telephone calls during specific hours. Patients at the clinic were not able to accept incoming calls. Besides Holmgren, he was visited frequently by his girlfriend Deanna Tynes as well as close friend Frank Winters, who resides in Kansas City during the off-season.

The support for Favre has been overwhelming by nearly everyone, from the fans to the entire Packer organization and his teammates. Everyone believes he will return as the league's top quarterback though his life off the field will undergo some change.

In order for Favre to break his addiction to pain medication, he also had to sign an agreement with his counselors within a 10-part treatment plan that he will not drink alcohol for two years. He will be frequently drug tested for verification, and if he fails, he will be subject to fine and suspension.

Favre has admittedly enjoyed drinking beer, especially with his friends on the team who would meet at his house after a game, but his friends are also ready to help him through the non-drinking phase of his treatment.

"I think everybody will but especially me and Frankie because we are his closest

SEE FAVRE PAGE 9

What Favre said

Here's what Brett Favre had to say at the May 14 news conference:

"I want to thank you all for coming on such short notice. It's kind of a difficult time because, throughout the past couple of years, I've been playing with pain and injuries and I've (had) numerous surgeries. I possibly became dependent upon medication.

"The last surgery, being the ankle surgery, I suffered a seizure in the hospital a couple months back. Because of that, I've sought help through the NFL, the doctors and through (Dr.) John Gray. We felt the best thing to do was for me to get some help. That's what we're going to do.

Favre

"I have the support of Mike (Holmgren) and Ron (Wolf), the NFL, family, friends, fans and you guys to get through this because it's not an easy thing.

"I'm going into an in-patient treatment facility for however long as it takes to get better. My objective is to get better so I can continue to play at the level I have and to get to the Super Bowl.

"The league has been very supportive and the doctors have been very supportive. It's not an easy thing, but hopefully I can help other people throughout this. It's very serious and something I have to take care of.

"Hopefully other people who are watching, whether it be NFL players or kids throughout the United States, will watch this and learn something from it and get better.

"My main objective is to get better first, for myself, for my family and to help the ball team win."

"Thanks for coming out and help me through it. Thank you."

Majkowski, Dickey can relate to Favre

By Todd Korth

Don Majkowski and Lynn Dickey, two former Packer quarterbacks who enjoyed some success as well as pain while in Green Bay, can relate to Brett Favre's agony and his fight to stiff-arm pain medication.

"I know exactly what he was going through as far as playing with pain," said Majkowski, who played for the Packers from 1987-92 and now backs up Scott Mitchell for the Detroit Lions.

"I was there many years myself doing the same thing. They will do anything they can to get you out there to play."

Majkowski emerged in 1989, leading the league in passing yards (4,318) and earning a spot in the Pro Bowl as the Packers went 10-6. The next season, after sitting out the preseason because of a contract holdout, he missed the last six games after undergoing rotator cuff surgery in his right shoulder. In subsequent years, he injured his other shoulder, pulled his hamstring and was hobbled by an ankle injury.

Still, he played whenever he could, whether the pain bothered him or not.

"They would do whatever it takes to get you out there," Majkowski said. " A lot of times it involved playing with a severe injury. As for myself, there were many times when I couldn't practice all week.

Majkowski

Dickey

Come Sunday, they would just shoot you up with novocain and you'd play with it. You wouldn't feel a thing while you were playing, but when it wore off you would have to deal with the pain."

That often involves taking painkillers, such as Vicodin.

"It definitely helps," said Majkowski.

Dickey also knows pain medication.

Dickey played for the Packers from 1976-85. His major injuries included his shoulder ('76), broken leg ('77), head injury ('81 and '84) and neck ('85). He said recently that he took painkillers quite often and got to the the point where he kept taking them even after the pain was gone.

"When I busted my leg, that thing hurt forever," Dickey told the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*. "I was on lots of pain medication. There was stuff I can't remember what I was taking, and that kind of worries you a little bit.

"I was laid up with a cast for four months and watching my favorite soaps. Even if something wasn't hurting, I'd look at my watch and say, 'It's time to take one.'"

Dickey said he finally broke his dependency on the painkillers by staying up for three straight nights without sleeping.

Many people feel Favre will be able to break his dependence on pain medication, but it won't be easy.

"It depends on the individual," said Majkowski, who said he never became dependent on painkillers. "It depends on your injury and how long you're playing with pain. He (Favre) had a severe ankle problem there for a while and he was playing week after week. It would be hard to stop taking them if you need something for the pain."

■ Favre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

friends on the team and we hang out with him quite a bit," said tight end Mark Chmura. "There will be some change in our life and obviously some change in his.

Chmura said Favre generally only drank once a week after games during the season and that his abstinence from alcohol won't really make him a better player.

It's up to Favre to decide how he will handle outside pressures as well as his dependence on pain medication, but many on the team feel he will do fine.

What they said

Since Brett Favre announced on May 14 that he was entering a drug treatment center because of an addiction to painkillers, many current and former athletes, coaches, friends and relatives have been asked for a comment on the situation. Here's a sampling of what people have said, including comments from other reports:

"You have to play with pain, especially when they're paying you a high salary. They're not paying you to sit on the bench. They're paying you to be out there. And then your teammates are counting on you, so you feel real guilty if you don't play in a game. You do whatever it takes to get out there. That's the mentality. It's kind of sad, but I know I did it and I know everybody does it."

Don Majkowski, former Packers quarterback

"The worst thing in this league is getting an injury tag. I hope this opens the eyes of some players, but I doubt anyone will show the guts Brett showed in standing up there and admitting his problem."

Boomer Esiason, Arizona Cardinals quarterback

"Brett's going to be OK. I hope people don't look down on him for this. It's a tough situation, but if there's one guy who can come back from it it's Brett."

Anthony Morgan, Packers wide receiver

"Perhaps his actions today will help other athletes of all ages, and I'm not just talking about professional athletes here, and we're not just talking about the NFL, but athletes of all ages who are in similar circumstances face their problem as Brett has today and seek help."

Mike Holmgren, Packers head coach

"A couple of years ago Brett told me he wanted to be the best quarterback in the NFL. He committed himself to it, and he did it. He'll commit himself to this. He knows his career and his life are at stake."

Deanna Tynes, Favre's girlfriend

"I was a little surprised, but I hope everything is working out for him. We need him here. I need him here. I don't need all these reps, but it's good to get some of the reps in here."

Jim McMahon, Packers quarterback

Negotiations continue

Despite his admission into a rehabilitation clinic for an addiciton to pain medication, the Packers and Brett Favre's agent are proceeding on a contract extension.

Favre still has three years remaining on his current five-year, $19 million contract that he signed before the 1994 season.

James "Bus" Cook said his client intends to "honor" his current contract, but he also said he has spoken with the Packers about an extension.

"We've talked some about it, but that's all I'm going to say," said Cook.

Favre, the league's most valuable player last year, earned $3.475 million. He will reportedly make $4.175 million this season, $4.475 million in '97 and $4.575 million in '98.

Packers general manager Ron Wolf has said Favre's contract remains a high priority this off-season, despite the quarterback's setback with pain medication.

"Ron Wolf has adamantly said he's going to get it done," Cook told the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*. "Hopefully, we can get it done before training camp starts."

Favre will likely receive a contract that will put him among the highest paid quarterbacks in the league, making an average of around $6 million per year.

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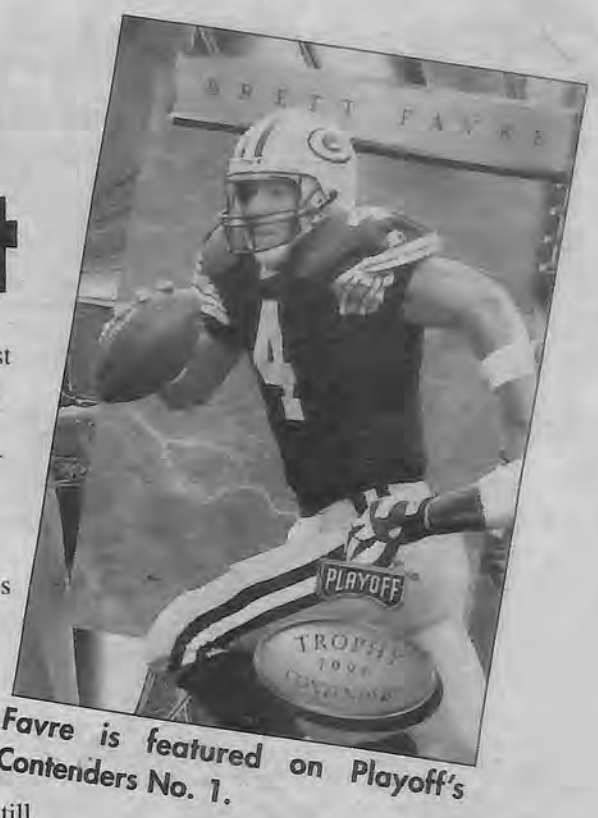
Favre still sizzles; Irvin is fading fast



Favre is featured on Playoff's Contenders No. 1.

Barry Shuck

Collectors' Corner

Brett Favre has problems, Michael Irvin is in trouble and even the White House is attempting to excavate skeletons. So many times our heroes become casualties of war, but in each of these cases, are they self-inflicted wounds or simply a sign of the times?

As it has always been, no other position garnishes more collectibility attention than quarterback. These men are the consummate leaders, the game's generals who dominate the limelight. Often times they are what ticket buyers come to see.

Throughout football card history, there have been these types of players whom fans and collectors have latched onto and called them their hero, such as Bart Starr, Fran Tarkenton, Joe Montana, Johnny Unitas, Dan Marino, Troy Aikman, Joe Namath, Sammy Baugh and Roger Staubach. Maybe these men were not always flawless, but certainly among the best. Pure, unadulterated, hero material.

Favre has in recent years joined this list of fearless fighters. He is gutsy, determined and a genuine hero type. The fact that the Packers have recently joined the elite category of the NFL's playoff class certainly has given Favre the ability to become more well known.

Last season, Fleer/Skybox signed Favre as one of their company spokespersons to help promote their Impact line of football cards.

Favre's popularity zoomed into the ozone layer after he was named the league's most valuable player last year. He joined the upper tier of the collectible scale, consisting formerly of only Emmitt Smith and Marino. Now there were three.

Since this past season's playoff run, football cards of Favre have been in high demand. Favre's most important rookie card (RC), 1991 Topps Stadium Club #94, was valued at $12 in July of '95. Today, this card holds a $25 price tag and has sold quite well.

On the field, he has shown to be one of the best at his position in today's NFL. Because of the mystique of the newly famed Favre and the fact that he is a QB, Favre's cards were red hot this past year.

Newer card issues, especially inserts, are highly sought after. Some of the most desired are '95 and '96 Pinnacle Zenith Z-Team (#19 and #9, respectively), '95 Pacific Gridiron Gold #38, '95 Topps Finest Refractors #56, '96 Collector's Edge President's Reserve Time Warp #6, '95 Upper Deck SP Holoview Die-cuts #36, '95 Skybox Impact Skymotion #M1 and M2, '96 Scoreboard ProLine DC3 All-Pros #AP8 and '95 Playoff Absolute Quad #2.

"We cannot keep any Favre cards in stock, they go out as fast as we get them, regardless of what it costs," said Nancy at The End Zone, an Oxford, Mass., mail order company that specializes in football cards. "We not only have Packer team-set buyers, but collectors who collect just Favre cards. He is a sure-fire seller."

Then Favre came forward with the revelation that he was addicted to pain medication. Another fallen hero?

People in general develop preconceived notions that once a person has broken the law or becomes intertwined with drugs, he or she is a criminal, or simply a bad person (which is probably true most of the time). But sometimes bad things happen to good people.

In Favre's situation, is he a bad person? Did he perform acts that were wrong, or immoral, or illegal?

Or maybe these are the facts: He plays a position in a violent game and is susceptible to 300-pound behemoths slamming him into the earth on a frequent basis. Everybody takes aspirin or some form of pain medicine for the various aches in our lives.

How does Favre's situation affect the collectibles market? Do collectors still follow him or run scared like people in Biblical times when they had just seen a leper.

"There is some decline in Favre's case but not much, whereas Irvin has bottomed out," stated Bob Swick, editor of the *Football Times*, a collectibles newsletter. "The difference in people's minds is that Favre was using prescribed painkillers whereas what Irvin did was illegal. Each of these player's cards will suffer, but only until the final outcome. Another great season for both should be cause for a rebound – success makes people forget.

"So far, there isn't any let-up with Favre's cards. People who collect him haven't slowed down," added Perry Eaves of Eaves Collectibles in Pensacola, Fla. "Irvin, however, is dead on the vine."

In the middle of this frayed situation are the trading card companies that base a part of their livelihood on depicting images of football players.

Because of the demands that the various printing processes must take, these companies must make their plans for each set as much as six months in advance – plans that cannot be altered. When something out of the ordinary crops up (like Ki-Jana Carter's season-ending injury last season), the set perseveres.

Such is the case this season. Because of the early time frame in which Bam Morris' situation occurred, it will be hard to find a card of him in any of the '96 releases. Morris was charged with possession of marijuana and cocaine in March. Pending the outcome of his case, he could face a suspension for conduct detrimental to the league. Card companies are adamant about picturing players who are either controversial or won't be in uniform for that current season whenever possible.

One has to wonder where Favre stands with football card companies in '96.

"We have made some adjustments in the later season sets," explained Pacific's director of public relations, Mike Monson. "Although we are not prejudging Irvin, his approach does not sit well with collectors, and so we selected other receivers in his place. Favre's situation is different and we feel that he will not lose the respect of collectors. So, we are using him as a strong part of our '96 products."

Fleer/Skybox has a lot at stake using Favre as one of its spokespersons. Last year, this idea was a brilliant foresight. But that was then, and this is now. A spokesperson represents the company and either adds credibility or sends the product into oblivion. Will they continue to use Favre?

"(Favre) is definitely in our plans for '96, although we did make some changes when we heard of his situation," said Rich Bradley, public relations manager at Fleer/Skybox. "We were not sure of the severity of his condition – whether or not he was even going to play next season. Because of the time frame, we made a decision to not picture him on the box as planned for our July issued Impact brand. But that decision was made with no facts concerning his condition. Now the facts have become clear – it is painkillers, and we can proceed with our plans for Brett."

"Favre is in the category of a modern day Unitas or Starr," Swick added.

Pinnacle has a similar outlook. Doug Murray is the manager of product development and oversees the tabulation of every checklist that gets approved for each football product that the company manufactures. "With this type of star player, you just can't take away the accomplishments from last season," he said.

Favre will be pictured on boxes and packs of Fleer Ultra Sensations.

It remains to be seen what will happen to each of these two fine players. At the moment, though, the general consensus appears to be: Favre has a problem that every person can have, whereas Irvin has a problem that only rich people can have.

Barry Shuck's news and views on collectibles appears bi-weekly in the Packer Report during the season and monthly in the off-season. Readers are invited to submit questions or comments on card collecting to Shuck at P.O. Box 646, Bagdad, Fla. 32530. A self-addressed stamped envelope must accompany all requests.

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Collectors just ask Barry

Dear Barry,

I enjoy your column in *Packer Report* and because I collect Packer cards, I find it helpful. I don't know which Packers are in the following insert sets: Series 2 of Topps and Stadium Club.

Terry Hauger
Yankton, S.D.

Shuck: For Topps, Reggie White is in Profiles (#14) and All-Pro (#15) while LeRoy Butler is card #14 in Florida Hotbed. In Stadium Club, Brett Favre is in Nightmares (#28) and Ground Attack (#2), pictured with Edgar Bennett. Former Pack back Vince Workman is in Power Surge (#8) and Ground Attack (#7).

With the Packers' recent success, veteran players like Bennett, Robert Brooks, White, Mark Chmura, Ken Ruettgers, Wayne Simmons and Craig Newsome will become more frequent. Favre will be in just about every insert set. Others that you should see more of are Santana Dotson and former Packers Mark Brunell and Bryce Paup.

Dear Barry,

My treasure is a framed copy of a program signed by Lombardi and other Packer greats from a banquet saluting him in 1968. Please give me your best guesstimate on the value.

Loid Atkinson
Wilmington, N.C.

Shuck: Part of the value of a particular item such as a program would be determined on how many were printed and how many have survived. Let's say 10,000 were printed, small numbers for a collectible. Now how many are still around? And how many are signed by Coach and company? $200 is a pretty good guess. Since this was from a banquet given in his honor, a die-hard cheesehead may pay more. But because it hangs in your living room, make the value priceless.

Dear Barry,

I have an autographed football from the 60's and would like your thoughts on preserving it. As a kid, we actually played with it. I am interested in its value as well.

Tom Freeman
Orinda, Calif.

Shuck: What is a $60,000 antique Corvette that has been totaled worth? Parts. Imagine kids playing with a football! The condition would be everything in this case, but a minimum will probably be $250 if Lombardi is on it. Refer to the May/June column for preservation tips.

Photo by Geno Teofilo

Lettin' it fly

Brett Favre launches a bomb as Dan Marino (13) and Jeff Hostetler (15) look on during the Quarterback Challenge at Disney World in mid-April. Eleven quarterbacks competed in the following categories: speed and mobility, accuracy, distance, and read and recognition. Favre, who had ankle surgery on Feb. 27, led the accuracy event until he was overtaken by Neil O'Donnell and Steve Young. Cincinnati's Jeff Blake won the distance event with a toss of 71 yards. Favre's throws were much longer but fell out of bounds. Favre then jokingly grabbed four more footballs from the waiting quarterbacks and heaved throws of nearly 75 yards each and walked away smiling. O'Donnell won the overall competition. Blake was second and Seattle's Rick Mirer third followed by Favre. The Quarterback Challenge will air on NBC, Aug. 10-11.

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Safety more determined than ever

Stronger Teague focuses on having big, injury-free year

By Brett Christopherson

There is an old adage in life that suggests luck is generated when preparation meets opportunity. For most people who are indeed prepared and then encounter some kind of opportunity, the luck ultimately turns out to be good.

But for Green Bay Packer free safety George Teague, the luck he's run into the last two years has been bad, if not horrible.

Teague

After a solid 1993 campaign which saw the first-round draft pick out of Alabama tackle team rookie of the year honors, the career of the 6-foot-1, 195-pound Teague slammed into a brick wall the next two seasons due to a variety of health problems.

First came a bizarre career-threatening thyroid problem in 1994 which basically zapped Teague's strength and endurance, plaguing him through what ended up being a subpar individual season.

"It was scary because I didn't know what was happening," Teague said recently. "I was losing pound after pound no matter how much I ate or worked out. But then I found out that it was a hyperactive thyroid gland which was causing my metabolism to work too fast. Since then, I've been on medication and will be for as long as I live."

Last season, after finally getting back into football shape, Teague broke a toe and bruised a shoulder. He missed Green Bay's game at Tampa Bay on Dec. 10, which ended his streak of starts at 41 games, but still managed to play the remaining two regular season games and all three playoff games despite the pain.

"It was hard playing that out," Teague said. "It definitely was painful, and at my position, the defensive back's feet are vital because we're always moving and changing direction."

Despite the obvious ailments, Teague became the target of some unfair criticism. Questions arose about his work ethic and whispers grew louder about what was perceived as a lack of commitment to play hard through pain.

"A lot of people read that George isn't having a good year because of some rumors that are being spread," said strong safety LeRoy Butler. "So he has to be a thick-skinned person and not let it bother him so he can come back and have a pretty good year – not so much to silence his critics, but for his teammates, for himself and for his family."

Now, armed with a new one-year contract and finally a healthy body, Teague has his sights set on a big year, both for himself and for the Packers.

"I'm going to come (to camp) in shape and see what happens," Teague said. "But the ultimate goal is to win the Super Bowl. I'm more concerned with the upcoming season, leaving the past alone, and putting rings on our fingers."

In fact, Butler is quick to point out that Teague's step has a little more hop to it these days.

"He looks good," said Butler. "He looks a lot fresher, moves a lot quicker. He really looks like he's in pretty good shape."

A healthy body is only half the battle, however. A clear head, along with the mindset that he will rebound from his health problems, will go a long way for Teague as well.

"I think George is certainly determined," said defensive backs coach Bob Valesente. "I can see a determination out there from him to go out and have a great year. That, to me, I respect and appreciate."

"The most important thing, though, is that he'll possibly benefit from another year removed from his thyroid problem," Valesente added. "If he can just stay healthy, I know he can have an outstanding year."

But do the high expectations mean Teague is putting unnecessary pressure on himself?

"No, not really on myself because of what's happened to my body," Teague said. "The coaches assessed my playing as not bad, but would be better at 100 percent. I guess we'll see."

And no one would like to see Teague at full strength more than Butler – not just for the team, but for selfish reasons, too.

"George is the kind of safety that can go cover man-to-man which frees me up a little bit to roam around, and that's one thing we need," said Butler. "He helps me out a lot, and I think he's one of the smartest guys that we've ever had here at safety, without a doubt."

And if everything goes as planned for Teague, he'll find out that the past doesn't equal the future, both for himself and the Green and Gold.

"I feel good, personally, and we just had a really great draft," said Teague. "Last year, we were a couple of plays away. Now, we're only getting better and when we win it all, this place will go crazy. I'm looking forward to getting this season going."

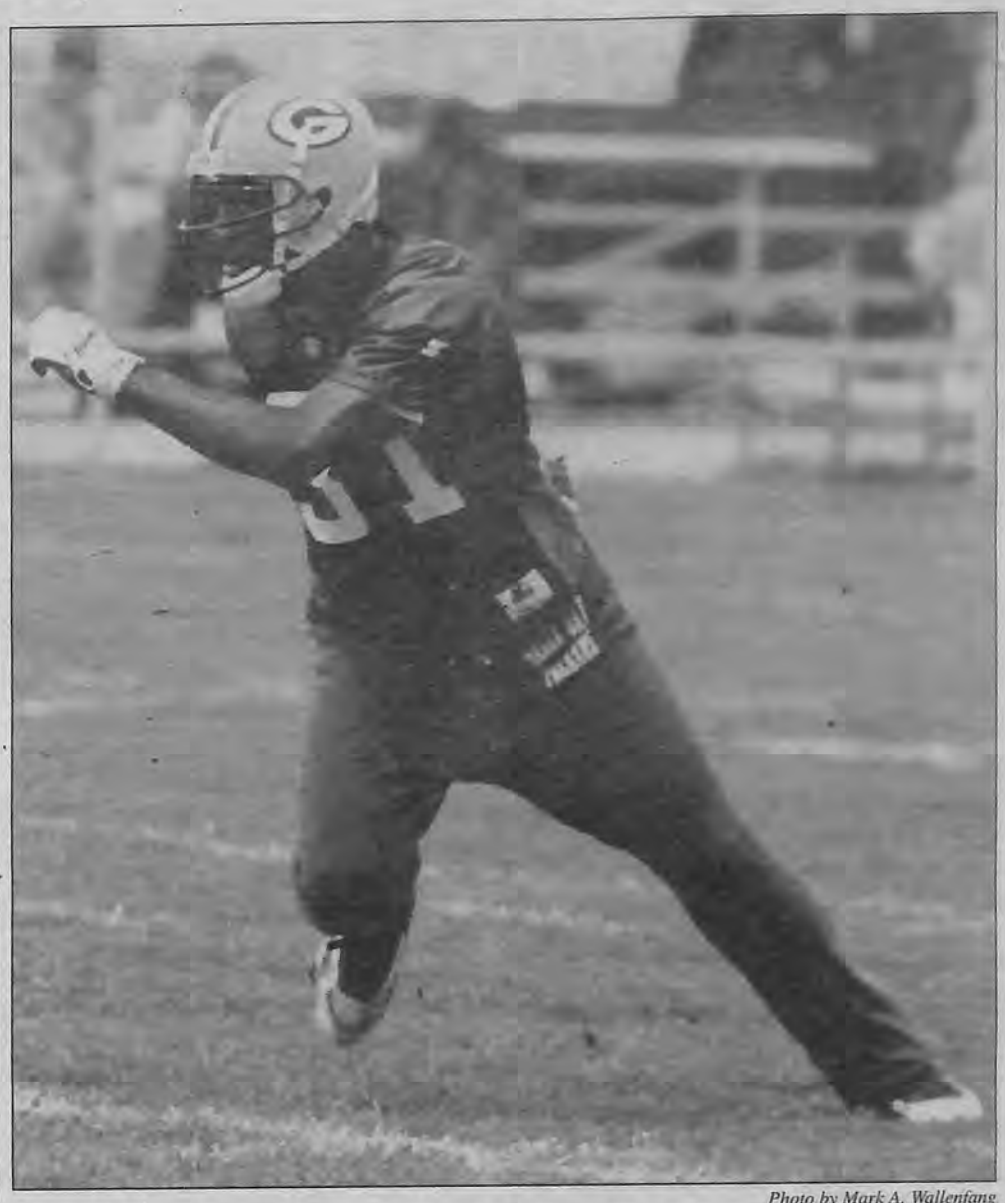

Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Free safety George Teague, armed with a new one-year contract and a healthy body, is setting his sights on a big year for himself and the Packers.

Teague file

Year	G/S	UT	AT	Sks.	Int.	Yds.	LG	TD	FR	FF	PD
1993	16/12	30	6	0	1	22	22	0	1	0	6
1994	16/16	41	12	0	3	33	16	0	0	1	13
1995	15/15	42	15	0	2	100	74	0	1	0	13
Totals	**47/43**	**113**	**33**	**0**	**6**	**155**	**74**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**32**
Plyffs.	**7/7**	**32**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**131**	**101t**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**2**

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Lambeau's green and growing

By Todd Korth

Green Bay's soggy spring has put many area residents and farmers in a foul mood, but not Todd Edlebeck.

Edlebeck is the fields supervisor for the Green Bay Packers and was in charge of re-sodding the entire surface of Lambeau Field this past spring.

While the wet weather has been a curse to some, it's been a blessing for Edlebeck and his crew, who installed 10,400 rolls of sod at a cost of about $27,000 in April.

Soon after the sod was installed, the area received an abundance of rain, which probably spoiled outdoor plans for many, but was perfect for the green, green grass of Lambeau.

"The field is ready to play on," said Edlebeck. "With the weather we've had, it's taken off beautifully. We're probably two weeks ahead of where we were last year when we sodded."

Lambeau Field was re-sodded last year for the first time since the early 1970s, according to Edlebeck. But Green Bay's poor weather last fall made it difficult to maintain the new bluegrass and the center of the field had to be re-sodded during the season. By the end of the season, the majority of the field was ruined.

"We usually come in and re-seed it all,"

Edlebeck said. "We would have done that this year if we didn't have so much area torn up. The sidelines were just trashed."

Edlebeck said the field may be re-sodded again next year. He is hoping to change the soil and install a new heating and sprinkler system, but he hasn't received the OK yet.

Training camp info: The Green Bay Packers will open their 1996 training camp on July 15, with all rookies and free agents due to report, head coach Mike Holmgren said.

Veterans are scheduled to report on July 18 and two-a-day practices for the full squad begin on July. 20.

A major scrimmage has been tentatively set for July 27, Holmgren said, depending upon the weather and having a relatively injury-free squad at that point.

Practices are open to the public and will be conducted at the Oneida Street practice field adjacent to the Don Hutson Center across from Lambeau Field. No times had been officially announced at press time, but there is generally one practice in the morning beginning at 8:45 a.m. and one in the afternoon at about 2:45 p.m. In case of rain or poor weather, the team moves inside the Hutson Center and practices are closed to the public.

Patriots after all: The Packers will play the New England Patriots in their preseason opener on Aug. 2 instead of the Oakland Raiders.

The Patriots were originally scheduled as the Packers' opponent but were replaced by the Raiders at the request of the National Football League after it worked out final arrangements for the nationally televised games. However, the Raiders are opening at Arizona the same weekend, so the Packers will be hosting the Patriots.

No hard feelings: Safety LeRoy Butler said he was surprised to read comments made by Packers general manager Ron Wolf about his overall conditioning, but he's not about to let it affect him.

Wolf told Packers' shareholders at the annual meeting on May 29 that "Butler has to come in here and demonstrate that he'll pay the price in conditioning. That's what is keeping him out of the Pro Bowl."

Wolf and coach Mike Holmgren have both said that Butler is one of the best defensive backs in the league, but he needs to come into training camp in better condition than he has in the past if he is going to earn a spot on the Pro Bowl team.

Butler says he is in good condition and has never been taken out of games because of fatigue. He ran a 4.5 40-yard dash during the team's recent June minicamp and was clocked at 4.4 a year ago at the same camp.

"You can always take constructive criticism and use it as a way of getting better and playing better," Butler said. "I don't have a problem with it. I think now the guys are going to be looking at me kind of *different* now, which is fine. I've been facing adversity all my life. This is just another piece I have to overcome."

During the second practice of the June minicamp Wolf approached Butler and put his arm around the strong safety and cleared things up.

"We don't have any animosity," Butler said. "It was just a misunderstanding. I think it was a classy thing for Wolf to talk to me. It showed a lot of respect, which is good."

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25 years of bliss

Harlan thought his stay in Green Bay would be much shorter

When a youthful Bob Harlan arrived in Green Bay to join the Packers' front office in June of 1971, he was sure it would not be his last stop.

Today, in June of 1996, he is patently surprised to find himself looking back from the substantial and rewarding perspective of 25 years in pro football's unique organization – and from the preeminence of his current position as the club's president and chief executive officer...only the ninth in the team's long history.

"It's funny," the personable Iowan explained, reflecting upon a quarter-century in Green Bay and his accompanying rise to the Packer penthouse, "because, you know, I had been at Marquette for six years and at St. Louis for five years, with the Cardinals, and I think when Madeline and I came to Green Bay, we thought, 'Well we'll be here five or six years and probably go on to some place else'."

Lee Remmel

Featured columnist

What, then, had happened to change that anticipated scenario?

Green Bay and the Packers, he will be quick to tell you, "answered a lot of questions for us...It's a great place to raise a family...We liked the size of the city...We liked the educational system. And, obviously, I was very happy with the organization. And, just really, from our family standpoint, it was perfect."

Planned to be a sports writer

In casual attire on what was ostensibly a vacation day for him, and typically impeccable, Harlan was holding forth in the spacious Lombardi Avenue office he has occupied for seven years – since succeeding Judge Robert J. Parins as the club's chief executive officer in June of 1989.

Having obviously not envisioned himself one day occupying the Packers' presidential chair, what had he originally contemplated as a career?

"It was never this," he laughed. "From the time I was early in high school, I wanted to be a sports writer. And I worked for the school newspaper in high school, and worked at the *Des Moines Register* in summers on the sports desk and answered phones...whatever I could do. Then I went to Marquette to major in journalism and worked on the school newspaper there, and was sports editor my senior year. And on the weekends, I worked for the *Milwaukee Journal* covering high school sports.

"I knew exactly what I wanted to do. And, very honestly, I knew where I wanted to go. I wanted to go back to Des Moines and work for the *Des Moines Register*. I thought it was an outstanding newspaper that covered a lot of the Big Ten, which appealed to me a great deal. My mind was made up that that was where I wanted to go. I started out at UPI in Milwaukee for just a few months (after graduation), and the Marquette S.I.D. job opened up. I had a chance to be sports information director. I really knew nothing about that job, but I thought it was worth trying, and once I got into it, I enjoyed it. I just never got back into the newspaper business."

Packer Report photo

Bob Harlan, shown here in 1994 announcing that the Packers would be leaving Milwaukee, said that decision was among the toughest he has had to make as Packers' president and CEO.

In any case, the possibility of a 25-year Packer career had not crossed his mind, he assured, when he arrived in Green Bay to become the team's assistant general manager.

"Absolutely not," was the reply to the inevitable question. "When we came here, I was 34 and I thought, 'Gee, I'm probably going to make two or three more stops,'" Harlan said. "Back when Dan Devine hired me, he said, 'This won't be your last stop. I hope I'm on my last one,' he said, 'but this won't be the final place for you.'

"I guess," he said with a slight smile, "it is."

Devine assistant

How, he was asked, had he happened to come to Green Bay?

"Well, even though I didn't know Dan Devine when he was at Missouri, he was a very good friend of the general manager of the Cardinals, Bing Devine, no relation – just a good friend," Bob explained. "And when Dan got here with the job of coach and general manager, he felt he needed someone to come in and kind of do the front office work...paper work...contracts – take that way from him so he could concentrate on football.

"He called Bing, among probably several people he called, just to see if they knew anyone that might fit it. I was at spring training with the (Cardinals) baseball club. Bing called me, and he knew of my background at Marquette, having gone to school there and working there as sports information director, and he said, 'You know, if you're interested, I'll recommend you. It would be a jump in status and,' he said, 'obviously, the pay would be better.' And I said, 'I'd like to at least get a chance to look at it.' So he called Dan, and then Dan flew down to St. Petersburg, where I was in spring training...And then Madeline and I flew into Green Bay for a visit, and he offered me the job."

And what had been his initial impressions of professional football?

"Well, I really felt like a lot of the problems I had faced in baseball – that the situations...were very similar," Harlan rejoined. "I think in pro sports, you know, you worry about contracts, stadium problems, and so forth. So many of the problems we've got were similar.

"The biggest adjustment I had to make is that I had never attempted to do a player contract before. And I spent an awful lot of time just with Pat Peppler (then assistant to the general manager), who had done contracts for years...picking his brain. And, really, going back through files – trying to see what had been done with contracts before – and how they were structured and so forth."

A quarter century later, he is quick to concede, things are vastly different on the pro football scene than they were then.

"It has become much more complex," he said. "It started changing when other leagues started forming, for example. That made contract negotiations much more difficult because the players always had that threat of going to another league.

"The way it's changed now with free agency and from the dollar standpoint, it's not the same game, in many ways. (But) it hasn't detracted from its popularity, obviously. The television ratings are high and the stadiums are full all the time. But it's a much more difficult game, I think, from the administrative standpoint than when I got here from baseball."

Nervewracking business

Does he, personally, enjoy the game as much as he did initially?

"I do enjoy it...I worry more about it, but I guess I'm in a position where I would worry more about it," he said, explaining, "I'd like to stay and watch the fourth quarter of more games, but I'm finding that more difficult to do (chuckle) as time goes by. I find myself spending a lot of time walking hallways instead of watching the game, because of nerves."

Is that how he would describe his Sunday afternoons?

"Yes, you know, you really don't go to the game as a fan. You'd like to, but you don't have that same feeling. It's your business, and winning is so vitally important...Yes, I find that Sundays are a dramatic day for me, and many times – particularly on the road, I just simply don't watch the fourth quarter. I've got to get up and walk...I peek around the corner once in a while, but I don't watch the whole fourth quarter."

SEE **HARLAN** PAGE 15

Harlan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

And how would his spouse, Madeline, describe his Sunday afternoons...or hers?

"I think she spends most of her fourth quarters in the ladies' rest room," Harlan chuckled. "She gets nervous herself and she can't watch it...She has trouble, too.

"We never watch games together," he appended, "because she's always in the booth with the other members of the Executive Committee and I always sit in the press box."

Lest anyone get the wrong impression, Harlan hastened to add, "But I don't want to paint it as something where you're just in misery all the time because – since Ron Wolf and Mike Holmgren got here – a lot of the misery has vanished, fortunately."

Winning brings great satisfaction

What does he consider the most enjoyable aspect of his job?

"Oh, I think, without a doubt, seeing that the football program has been resurrected. That, without a doubt, is the biggest pleasure I've gotten. Because there were just so many years when it was just, you know, 8-and-8 and 4-and-12. We never really were a threat. Midway through the season, they always started talking about, 'What do you think they're going to do in the draft?' And that bothered me.

"But, to see this program get back, and have Ron and Mike do things that haven't been done in such a long period of time – and seeing the pride restored in Packer fans – is really great. I just feel so good about it. That gives me more pleasure than anything because, for years, I used to hear from people before I was in this job. They would call me and talk to me....They would say, 'Your stadium is full. Do you really care?' They would ask me that question. And that bothered me tremendously. And now I have people who will come up to me and say, 'I'm really proud to be a Packer fan. I've followed them for years.' And that has given me great satisfaction."

Big decisions

What, since becoming club president in 1989, has been his toughest decision?

"Well, frankly, I think the most difficult has been leaving Milwaukee. Not that the Tom Braatz situation was easy – it wasn't easy, by any means. I didn't really make that move because of a dislike for Tom Braatz, or anything. It was a feeling that, first of all, we had to get a powerful person in charge of this football program. We were just in a spinning-the-wheels situation...we weren't going any place.

"I think we were all fooled in 1989, when we were 10-and-6," he continued. "We had four games where we won by one point each and that 10-and-6 could have been 6-and-10, very easily. And I think we all, including myself and our Executive Committee, felt, 'This is it – we're on our way.' And we weren't.

"And I had admired Ron Wolf for a long time, I had known Ron for a long time and I wanted to get someone of his caliber, first of all, and put him in charge of the program...with total authority. I wanted to eliminate all of the talk...about the Executive Committee – 'Why is it making football decisions?...And why is a 45-man board involved?'...And I wanted to get all of that talk eliminated. And I think, from the moment Ron Wolf walked in the door, we did eliminate that.

"I'm not saying that wasn't difficult – it was. But the Milwaukee situation, to me, was something I never thought we'd face. And when it became inevitable that we had to get out of there because we were losing two-and-a-half million dollars a year, I guess the biggest thing was, 'How do we do it differently than other teams have done it? How do we bring our fans with us?' And I'm pleased to say now that it's worked as well as you ever have anticipated it would."

"Without a doubt, I think, for the overall good of this organization, to have Ron Wolf heading the football operation, was the soundest thing we've done."
Bob Harlan

Tracks down Wolf

Harlan had no problem identifying his best presidential decision.

"Without a doubt, I think, for the overall good of this organization, to have Ron Wolf heading the football operation, was the soundest thing we've done."

Why has Wolf suceeded where his predecessors had failed?

"Well, you know, when I wanted to hire him, there were a couple of things that impressed me. First of all, he had worked for 25 years for Al Davis. And I knew there were two qualities he had to have to work for Al for 25 years – he had to have some outstanding football knowledge, first of all. And, secondly, he had to be very dedicated. Knowing what Al Davis is like, anyone would work side by side with him and be his chief lieutenant – if that is what you would call him – for 25 years, he had to be a dedicated worker."

"I had heard about Ron, and his good points, for so many years. And when I

SEE HARLAN PAGE 16

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Harlan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

first decided I had to start looking around, I had breakfast with George Young, the general manager of the Giants, some two months before we made the move to make a change in the general manager's job. I told George, 'I'm going to have to make a change – I can just see we've got to go in a different direction.' I asked him if he would help me try to put together a list of the number two men around the league who were very good and ready to move into a general manager's job. And I said to him, 'Ron Wolf is who I would really like to have.' Ron had just recently joined the New York Jets. And he said, 'Wolf would be very good, but I don't think you could get him to leave New York.'

"And so I decided, if I make the offer good enough, and the position is everything that Ron Wolf would want – the position as general manager – I still felt it was worthwhile to offer it to him. That's why I decided he'd have to have total authority over everything, and I told him on the phone the first time I offered him the job, there would be absolutely no interference, that there would be no need for concern about a large board and what you can and can't do...And I said, 'I can promise you there will be no interference.' And, from the moment he walked in the door, it's been just that way. It's a take-charge attitude, and he always worries about, 'What do I do next to make this team better?' "

Wide range of experience

Harlan is the first president in the organization's history to have come up through the ranks, having worked in or with every area of the club's operations before assuming his current duties. Harlan feels that comprehensive background has helped him in carrying out his responsibilities as CEO.

"I think it made me comfortable with what the challenge was," he says, "because as I used to tell Judge Parins, 'I feel I know what the problems in the various departments are, what their concerns are, and what I can do,' because, actually, all of the departments used to report to me and I would try to take a lot of that responsibility and keep it away from the Judge. I thought that he had other things to worry about, and if he had troubles with the field or the building, or PR or tickets, that if I could help the individuals, then that's what I should do. And so, when I came into this position, I felt, "Well, I know the problems. Whatever it might be, it's not a problem I haven't heard about before."

Fan support best in sports

Profoundly pleased with the spectacular fan support the Packers enjoy, a record 23,000 names now are on the waiting list for season tickets, Harlan says, in wonder, "It's the most remarkable marketing story in the history of sports...The way the fans have supported this franchise – I've been here 25 years and the stadium is always full, the enthusiasm is always great. I always tell the fans that they're knowledgeable, and they're loyal and they're patient. And, if they're not the best, I don't know who you could say are."

Sons succeed in sports field

During his 25 years in Green Bay, Harlan has seen his three sons become involved in sports-related occupations. Kevin, 36, is a play-by-play broadcaster of NFL games for Fox Sports and also the play-by-play "voice" of the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves; Bryan, 34, is director of public relations for the Chicago Bears; and Michael, 27, is an account executive for sports marketing and sales with the Marcus Corporation.

Obviously pleased with these developments, he was quick to affirm, "I am happy that they've done so well. And there never was any pushing done by Madeline or myself, behind that, at all."

'This' is it for Harlan

Now that he has done what he has done, professionally, would he change anything?

"No, no," was the prompt reply. "Considering what it's done for our family. It was a great decision, first of all, to come to Green Bay. And, to join this organization, was a big honor for me. I mean, I was in Milwaukee working in the Marquette sports information office from 1960 through 1965, and those were the beginnings of great times in Green Bay. And I had great admiration for this organization. I told my wife, 'I hope some day we can go to Green Bay and I can work there.' And so, when Bing Devine called me and said, 'You know, Green Bay would like to talk to you,' I had to take a look at this."

And "this," Harlan hopes, will continue for some years to come.

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1. 1919 Team photo
2. 1919 Team in formation
3. 1917 Acme Packers
4. Lambeau walking out of Rockwood Lodge
5. Lambeau at practice gesturing/holding football
6. Bellevue Park circa 1923
7. Hagemeister Park circa 1920
8. City Stadium (East High) aerial circa 1930's
9. Early Lambeau Field showing farm in S.W. corner on lot circa 1958
10. Clark Hinkle-posed
11. Arnie Herber-posed
12. Johnny Blood-posed
13. Cal Hubbard-posed
14. Mike Michalski-posed
15. Rare 1924 photo with Lambeau carrying football
16. 1928 action showing Red Dunn
17. 1st Champion team photo 1929 (undefeated)
18. 1930 home schedule with photo of Curly Lambeau
19. Hutson in action with Canadeo blocking (early "Sweep")
20. Don Hutson with record #footballs — taken 1943
21. Don Hutson kneeling by goalposts
22. Lombardi — black/white — head and shoulders — studio portrait
23. Lombardi — full length
24. Canadeo running sweep vs. Bears — 1940's
25. Rare B&W — Practice at Rockwood circa 1948
26. Paul Brown on sidelines
27. Lombardi with Marie arriving at Austin Straubel, 1959
28. Full length Bart Starr (arm cocked with football)
29. Full length Taylor running with football
30. Paul Hornung — full length running with football
31. Hornung and Starr — close-up, circa 1960
32. 1924 crowd photo with Otto Stiller photographing from roof
33. Locker room photo with Lombardi-black and white facing camera
34. Jim Ringo-posed, late 50's
35. Ray Nitschke-posed, late 50's
36. Forrest Gregg-posed, late 50's
37. Max McGee-posed late 50's
38. Close-up '24 vintage action
39. Milt Gantenbein — Hutson's end partner vs. Bears at City Stadium
40. Clark Hinkle rumbles goalward — action 1930's
41. Early 40's action vs. Cardinals at State Fair Park — Milwaukee
42. Packer/Bear action 40's showing Hutson, Hinkle & Baby Ray in Chicago
43. 25th Anniversary all-time Packer Team ('44)
44. Ted Fritsch running with ball vs. Bears
45. Hornung and Mike Ditka receiving awards — '56 with Chris Schenkel
46. 1919 Rail Bird's at Hagemeister Park
47. '62 Team "goofy" shot
48. Jerry Kramer holding jersey — early 60's
49. Vern Llewelyn-posed
50. Lavvie Dilwig-posed

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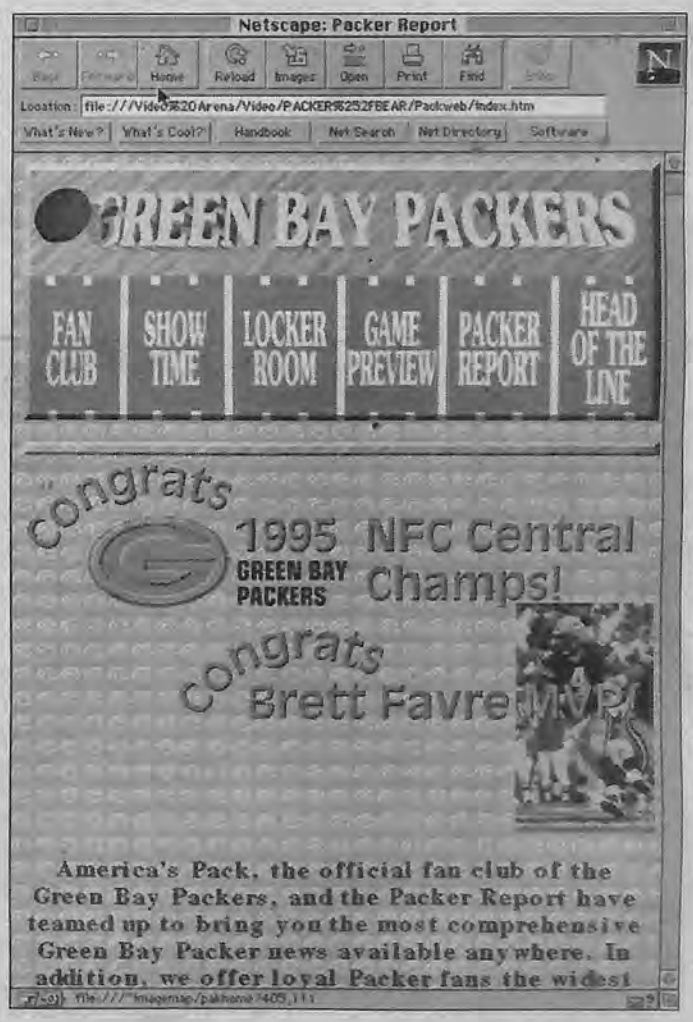
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Packers trade for veteran safety

By Todd Korth

Eugene Robinson says he's not coming to Green Bay to ride the bench. The 12th year free safety intends to start.

"No doubt, there's no doubt," Robinson said. "That's not to be conceded at all. It's just my experience in the game. If there's an opportunity to start, I'll seize the opportunity."

The Packers acquired Robinson from the Seattle Seahawks on June 27 in exchange for defensive end **Matt LaBounty.**

Robinson, 33, was the odd safety out in the Seahawks' plans this season with the addition of free safety Darryl Williams. Williams will earn $1.7 million next season while Robert Blackmon, another safety, will receive $1.5 million.

Robinson, the Seahawks' all-time leading tackler (983) and second on the team's interception list (42) was asked by the Seahawks to take a "substantial pay cut" in his $1.2 million salary for the 1996 season.

LaBounty

"I couldn't resign myself to taking a pay cut after all the hard work and effort I've put in," said Robinson, who was in the final year of his contract with Seattle.

The Packers and Robinson had not reached a deal at press time and Robinson had yet to take the team's physical. He speculated that Green Bay will probably release him from his current contract, pick him up and renegotiate the deal.

"I wanted to find out if they really want me. Do they want me to come down there and play?" Robinson said. "I think that's a resounding, 'yes.'"

Robinson will be challenging George Teague for the starting spot at free safety opposite LeRoy Butler.

Robinson is a two-time Pro Bowler. He played in all 16 games for the Seahawks in 1995, but was slowed by an injury. He underwent Achilles' tendon surgery in December of 1994 and had only one interception last season.

"I struggled for the first half of the year," he said. "Man, my foot hurt. I played on guts."

LaBounty, 27, backed up Reggie White at left defensive end last season. He played in the Packers' final 14 games and made two starts when White was sidelined by injuries.

LaBounty, a late 1993 waiver-wire pickup by the Packers, had 16 tackles and three sacks last year.

In another deal, Green Bay traded third-year defensive back **Lenny McGill** to the Atlanta Falcons on June 6 in exchange for fullback **Robert Baldwin.**

Baldwin, a 1,000-yard rusher at Duke, was signed by Atlanta on Feb. 5. He originally joined the Seahawks as an undrafted free agent in April of 1995 but was placed

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Ingram signs with Eagles

Wide receiver Mark Ingram was the second former Green Bay Packer to join the Philadelphia Eagles this off-season.

Ingram signed a one-year contract for about $300,000, plus a $15,000 signing bonus, according to published reports.

Ex-Packers quarterback Ty Detmer signed with the Eagles in March.

Ingram, 31, played in all 16 games for the Packers last year with nine starts. He caught 39 passes for 469 yards and three touchdowns.

He joined the Packers in March of 1995 after two years with Miami.

Jackson talks stalled: Tight end Keith Jackson may have a promising career in television if he doesn't get a football contract offer that he likes.

The Packers reportedly have been talking with Jackson's agent Gary Wichard about once a week but there hasn't been much progress in talks.

Meanwhile, Jackson, 30, recently auditioned for the TNT network's *Pro Football Tonight* show. The show's producer, Tim Kiely, was impressed with Jackson, saying he was articulate and interesting.

The Packers, New Orleans Saints and Miami Dolphins appear to be the only teams that have shown interest in signing Jackson. The best offer has apparently been about $1.3 million a season.

■ Trades/Williams signs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

on waivers during the preseason.

"He's a big guy, a slammer," said Packers coach Mike Holmgren. "You need those guys certainly in the preseason and in training camp because the backs get nicked up a little bit. ... It gives us another big blocker, fullback."

Baldwin, 5-foot-11, 230 pounds, was an All-Atlantic Coast Conference first-team selection in 1994 as a senior after rushing for 1,187 yards and 12 touchdowns. He also led the team in scoring with 78 points.

He rushed for 48 yards in eight carries and was named the West squad's Most Valuable Player in the Hula Bowl. He also played in the East-West Shrine game.

McGill, 25, was signed by the Packers as an undrafted free agent out of Arizona State in 1994. He played in 21 games, with one start, and was used primarily as a 'nickel' back. He had 25 tackles and one pass defensed in 15 games last year.

McGill showed promise in 1994 but tore ligaments in his knee midway through the season and spent the off-season in rehabilitation.

The Packers were trying McGill out at safety in minicamps this off-season.

"That was an experiment," said Holmgren. "He knew it and we knew it. I think his natural position is corner. I liked his size and I wanted to give him a chance at safety at least to see how he could do that and it was not an easy thing for him."

McGill had some shaky performances in a few games last year where he missed tackles or was beaten in pass coverage. He was benched as the team's 'nickel' back in the second half against New Orleans.

McGill's chance of making the team were slim this season. The Packers have been impressed with second-year pro Matthew Dorsett and are high on Williams and Keith Crawford at cornerback to back up Craig Newsome and Doug Evans.

"I wish him nothing but the best, but we needed to do something that was the best thing for the team," said Holmgren.

The Packers acquired defensive end **Toddrick McIntosh** in a trade with the New Orleans Saints for past considerations on May 10.

McIntosh, 6-foot-3, 277 pounds, was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys in the seventh round in 1994. He was on the Cowboys' inactive list for the first 11 games of the '94 season before being waived on Nov. 21. He was claimed by Tampa Bay the next day and played in four games for the Buccaneers, making four tackles.

McIntosh played in 11 games last year for the Bucs and made one start at left defensive end in Week 8 against the Atlanta Falcons. He was inactive for four other games, cut on Dec. 19 and claimed by the Saints where he was inactive for New Orleans' season finale.

McIntosh, a Tallahassee, Fla., native, was a two-year starter and four-year letter-winner at Florida State. He finished with 147 tackles and 12 sacks.

Signings: Cornerback **Tyrone Williams** became the first of the eight draft picks by the Packers to sign a contract.

Williams, a third round choice from Nebraska in the April 20-21 draft, signed a three-year deal worth a reported $800,000 in mid-May.

Williams' agent Arthur Whittington said it was a fair deal, but also said his client lost money because of an off-field incident in January of 1994. Williams was accused of firing a gun twice into an occupied car and using a gun to commit a felony. He was expected to accept a plea bargain which will prevent him from serving jail time.

An aggressive, hard-nosed defender, Williams was a three-year starter for two national championship teams at Nebraska. He was an All-Big Eight Conference first team selection in 1994 and '95.

The Packers re-signed cornerback **Keith Crawford** on May 23 to a one-year contract. Terms were not disclosed.

Crawford, a third-year pro and former wide receiver who last season made the transition to defense, played in 13 games and had 23 tackles.

Free agent signings: The Packers signed former Arizona Cardinal **Wendall Gaines** as a free agent on May 15.

The 6-foot-4, 293-pound Gaines played tight end for the Cardinals in 1994 and '95 but is converting to defensive end with the Packers. He played one year at Oklahoma State as a defensive end prior to transferring to Rose (Okla.) State College, which did not have a football program.

As a tight end, Gaines played in all 16 regular season games last year with 11 starts. He had 14 catches for 117 yards.

Cuts: Green Bay placed quarterback **Mike McCoy** on waivers on May 21.

McCoy (6-3, 204) signed with the Packers on Nov. 7, 1995, and was placed on the practice squad. The former Utah quarterback leaves the Packers with four quarterbacks on the roster: Brett Favre, Jim McMahon, Doug Pederson and rookie Kyle Wachholtz, a seventh round pick from Southern California in the 1996 draft.

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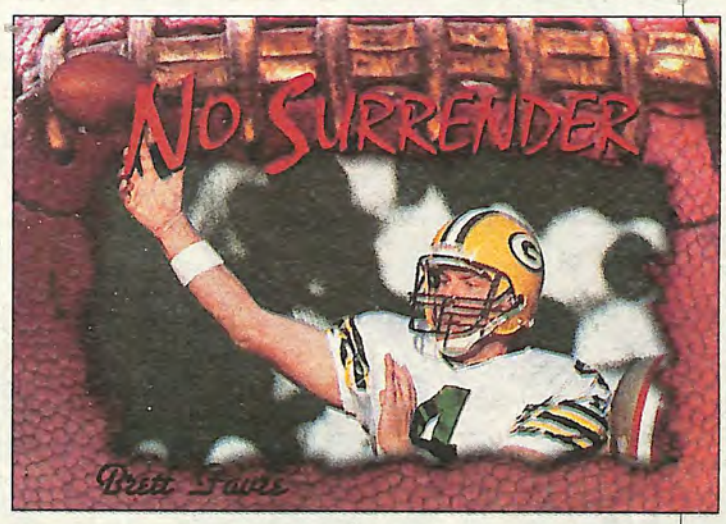


with many new designs, styles and photos. The 200-card set is sure to satisfy the hungriest of Packers fans and card collectors. Here's a look at what you can find in 1996 SkyBox Impact™ NFL football cards.

Player Card #52 is my official NFL player card, and like all 200 Impact™ cards, you'll find expert analysis from Matt Millen, four-time Super Bowl winner and top football commentator on the *NFL on FOX™*. **No Surrender Insert Card #5** can be found exclusively in packs at hobby stores (1:40 packs) and features the no quit attitude that we demonstrated last season.

We had some great moments last season and you can relive some of them in **Favre Season Highlights**, a five-card subset that recaps some of the fun of '95, such as my selection as MVP, my 99-yard TD pass against the Bears on Monday Night Football, the NFC-record 38 TD passes, the NFL-record 12 consecutive games with at least two TD passes and the best win of the season, beating the 49ers in the NFC playoffs.

One of the coolest cards around is the **Brett Favre SkyMotion™,** which is only the sixth SkyMotion™ card ever created. This card contains three seconds of actual game footage from last season. Move the card to the right and see me throw a TD pass. Collectors can receive this card through an exchange card (1:360 packs).

For decades historic events have been captured on minted coins. Now comes the first **Brett Favre SkyMint™** coin-card, which combines a gold coin and a trading card, and is available at 1:360 packs.

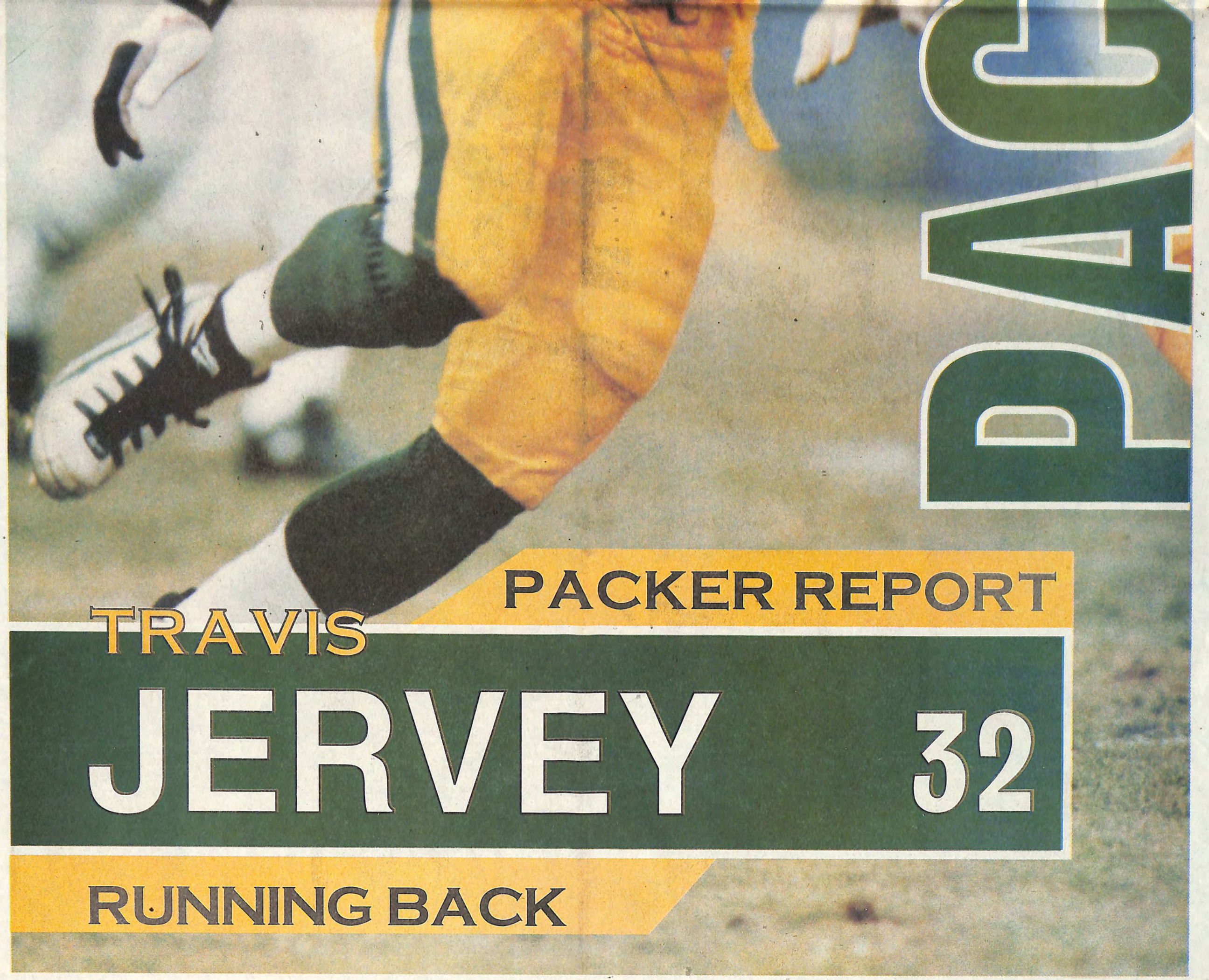
The **Brett Favre MVP Series** features the different facets of my game, as Fleer/SkyBox offers a special five-card insert set covering both SkyBox Impact™ NFL and October's SkyBox Premium NFL card lines. Here's a look at this five-card series:

Collectors can receive a **Brett Favre Lenticular (#3)** card by getting two exchange cards (part one found in Impact™ and part two in October's SkyBox Premium NFL set) showing great 3-D action. The remaining four cards in the MVP series include: **Favre Foil-Etched (#1)** and a **Favre Acrylic (#2),** available at 1:480 packs in Impact™. In SkyBox Premium, collectors can complete the set with the second half of the exchange card. They can receive a **Favre Die-Cut (#4)** and a **Favre Leather (#5)** card.

Packer fans can also find **SkyBox Impact™** cards for other popular Green Bay standouts including explosive wide receiver **Robert Brooks**, who can be found in player card #50 in the regular set, as well as in card #1 in the **"Excelerators"** insert set. *Other fan favorites featured include:* **Edgar Bennett** (card #49), **Mark Chmura** *(#51) and future Hall of Famer* **Reggie White** (#53).

1996 SkyBox Impact™ NFL football cards are available July 17, with 10 cards and an *NFL on FOX™* instant-win game card in every pack for $1.49 per pack. The 200-card set features 148 veterans, 40 rookies, five Inspirations and two checklists. It also offers five insert sets: 20 *NFL on FOX™* Rookies (1:3 packs); 10 Excelerators (1:12); 15 Intimidators (1:20); 20 No Surrender (1:40 hobby); and 10 VersaTeam (1:120).

IMPACT SkyBox



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TRAVIS

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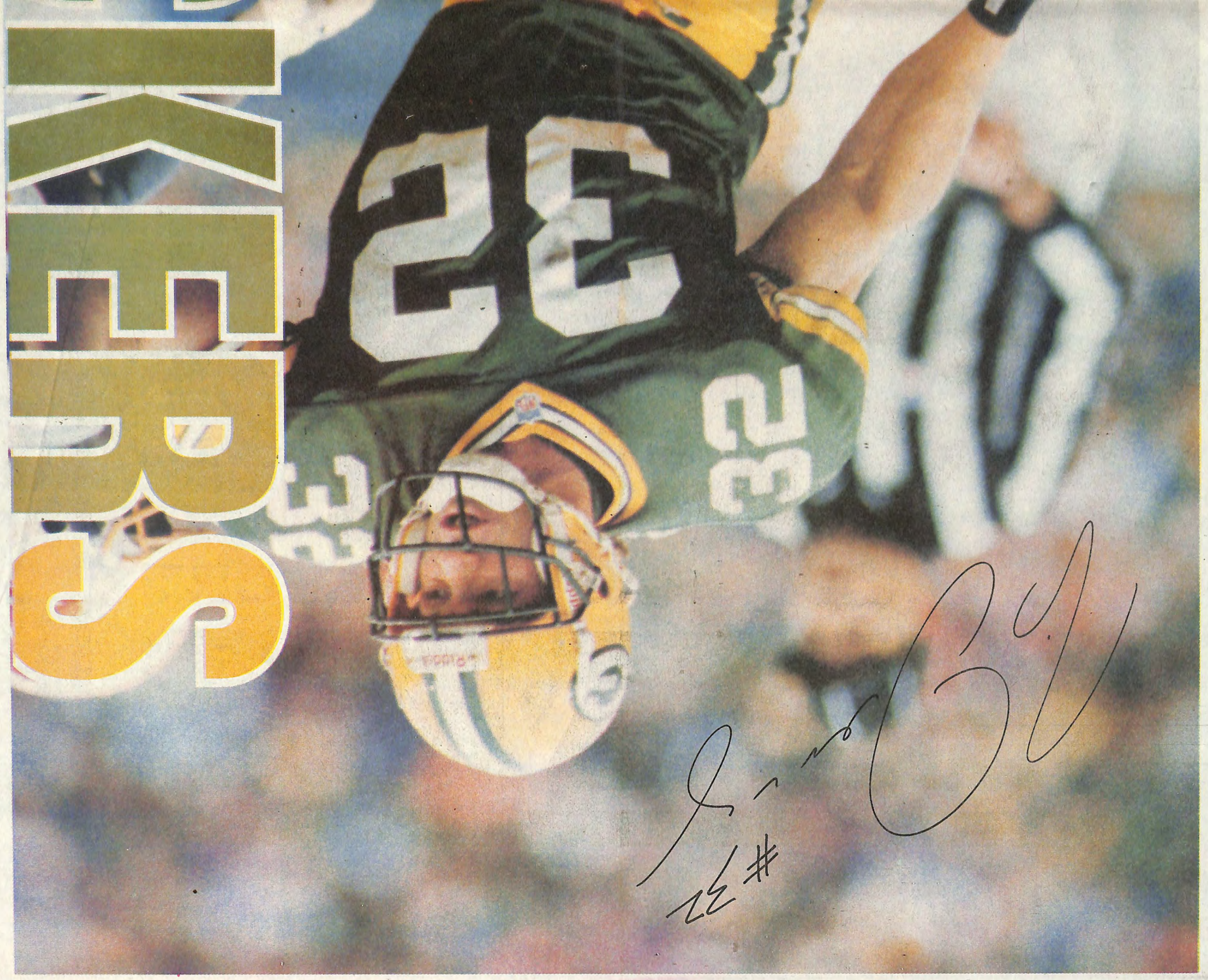
RUNNING BACK

PACKERS



'A heck of a ride'

'Hawg' exits after 45-year cruise with Pack

By Jack Pearson

They called him Hawg.

Not in any form of derision, to be sure, for Dave "Hawg" Hanner, who recently announced his retirement from the Green Bay Packers after an exceptional 45-year career, was as well-liked and respected as any man who ever wore the Green and Gold.

Back in 1952, Hanner was drafted by the Pack after starring at the University of Arkansas, where the football team is known as the Razorbacks or the Hawgs. Hence the nickname.

By today's National Football League standards, the old redhead, who played at about 250 pounds, would be considered too small to make the grade. Probably too slow as well. But as emphasized by Live Director of Public Relations, Hanner epitomized the qualities of what those Vince Lombardi championship teams were all about.

It seems strange but Hanner was never given All-Pro honors by the NFL and was named to the Pro Bowl only twice. Yet if you look at the 50th Anniversary All-Time Packer Team chosen in 1969, you'll see three defensive tackles: Hanner, along with Cal Hubbard and Henry Jordan.

When fans across the nation voted in 1976 for the Packer Modern Era All-Star Team, the selections of the two defensive tackle spots were Hanner and Jordan. Hanner, of course, is in the Packer Hall of Fame, one of the first players from the Glory Years to be honored. In the Packers' 78-year history, only three men, Bart Starr, Forrest Gregg and Ray Nitschke, have more years of service.

Rock of the defense

When Lombardi took over the Packer reins in 1959, one of his first goals was to establish an effective defensive line.

"The only regular we had on defense who was worth a damn was Hanner," said Tom Miller, then the Packers' Publicity Director. "Lombardi, who among his many other attributes was a great wheeler-dealer, knew he had to pick up some help for the Hawg. He pulled off some remarkable trades for some players who most Packer fans up until then had never heard of. Three of them were Bill Quinlan, Willie Davis and Henry Jordan."

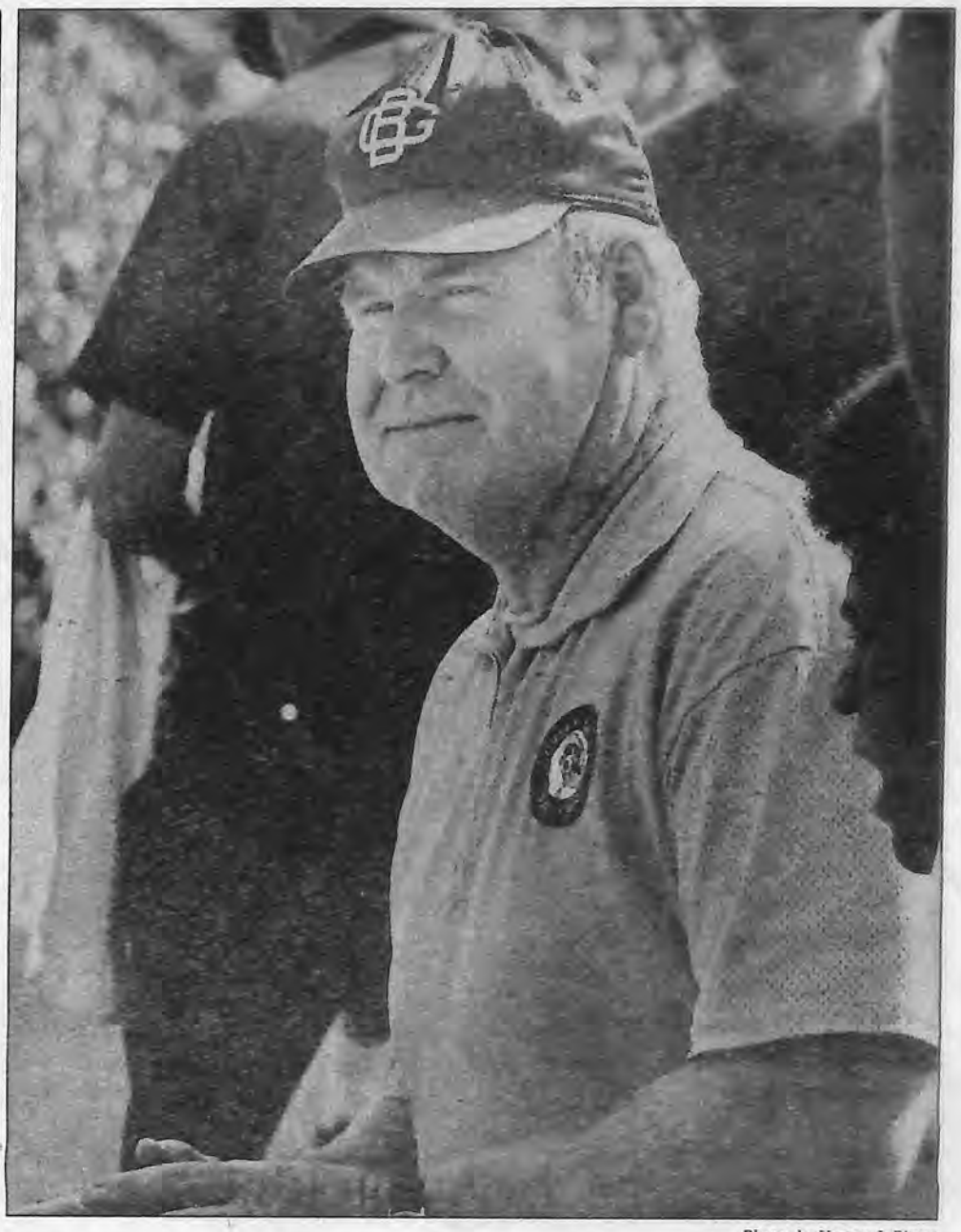
Lombardi placed Davis and Quinlan at each end and inserted Jordan along with Hanner in the middle. Hanner was the biggest of the smallest front four in the league. But they melded together to become one of the greatest defensive lines in NFL history.

Hanner, who recently announced his retirement, was scout since 1981.

In 1958, the year before that lineup was created, the Packers won only one game and gave up a total of 382 points in 12 games, an average of nearly 32 points in 12 games. By 1961 the Packers were champions of the world, and their defense allowed only 223 points over an enlarged 14-game schedule, just under 16 points a game. At the end of the season, in the 37-0 NFL Title Game slaughter of the New York Giants, Hawg and his mates smothered the eastern club's ground game, holding them to only 31 yards.

Green Bay won the championship again the next year and the Packers defense was even more dominant, allowing only 148 points, a 10.6 per game average. The Packers gave up only four rushing touchdowns all year. Davis and Jordan became the media darlings and perennial All-Pros, but it was the unsung Hanner who was the ever-steadying influence, the rock upon which Lombardi's defense was built. Green Bay's offense scored a league-leading 415 points. It was one of the greatest combinations of offensive and defensive superiority in NFL annals.

"Our defensive crew is successful because they are great students of the game and especially their own positions," said Phil Bengtson, the club's defensive coordinator who would later become the Packers' head coach from 1968-70.



Photos by Vernon J. Biever

Hanner was an assistant coach and then defensive coordinator for the Packers from 1965-79.

"This is particularly true of Hanner. Dave studies everything. He learns every little mannerism of the player he'll be going up against. He always has a definite game plan in mind for every contest."

Drafted by Pack in '52

Just about everyone called him Hawg. A few called him Dave, but his full name is actually Joel David Hanner Jr. He was born on a farm near the little town of Parker, Ark., on May 20, 1930.

After high school, Hanner went on to the University of Arkansas, where he was a starter from his sophomore year on as a defensive tackle, gaining All-Southwest Conference honors twice.

Hanner was drafted in the fifth round in 1952 by Packer Coach Gene Ronzani (the first of 11 Packer head coaches he would play, coach or scout for) and signed for $5,000.

Hanner was exceptionally durable from the beginning, never missing a start over his first nine years. When he finally did have to sit one out, it was because of an appendicitis operation.

"But I almost didn't make it through Lombardi's first preseason workout," he said with a laugh. "I had reported to practice more than 30 pounds overweight. It was about the hottest August I could remember, and his workouts were something none of us had ever experienced before, absolute torture.

"They used to say if you could get through Lombardi's practices, that the games would be a snap, and that was so true. Anyhow, I lost 18 pounds in the first day and a half and ended up in the hospital."

Here's some Packer trivia for your file: Who were the first three Lombardi-led Packers to put points on the board in a regular season game? During Green Bay's 9-6 season-opening win over the Chicago Bears, Jim Taylor scored a touchdown on a short plunge, Paul Hornung kicked the extra point and Hanner followed in the fourth quarter by recording a safety.

Those were the only points Hanner was ever credited with in his 13-year career with Green Bay. He was deprived of a touchdown in 1961 against Baltimore. The Colts were deep in their own territory and quarterback Johnny Unitas was dropping back to pass. Jordan and Davis stormed into the backfield and knocked Unitas to the turf. But just before he fell, Unitas let the ball pop into the air, Hanner grabbed it and plowed nine yards into the endzone.

Unfortunately, referee Bill Davis fouled up. Davis admitted later that he inadvertently blew his whistle when Hanner caught the ball, making the play dead at that spot. Hanner got the interception, but no touchdown.

"I didn't care," Hanner said. "I knew

SEE HAWG PAGE 23

Hawg

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

we'd score anyway." A few plays later, Starr passed to Hornung for a touchdown.

Snubbed of All-Pro honors

There were a number of possible reasons why Hanner didn't achieve all of the All-Pro honors most of his Lombardi-era teammates did.

One is that there were just so many one team could be awarded. The Packers' offense included Starr, Taylor, Hornung, Forrest Gregg, Jerry Kramer, Fuzzy Thurston and Jim Ringo. On defense, Green Bay had Davis, Jordan, Nitschke, Willie Wood, Herb Adderley, Dan Currie and Bill Forester. The Packers were winning All-Pro honors left and right but some spots had to be saved for the other teams.

Another reason was that by the time the Glory Years and all their resulting awards had started, Hanner had been in the league for many years and his best days were behind him.

Another is that Hanner, who was chubby, balding and unassuming, just did not project the image of an All-Pro.

"Didn't matter at all," Hanner said. "I was always happy for everyone else."

From player to coach to scout

Hanner played for the Packers through the 1964 season and then retired, grudgingly. He had an offer to play on with the Los Angeles Rams, but chose instead to remain with the Packers as an assistant coach.

He served in a number of coaching capacities with the Packers. Dan Devine appointed Hanner as the team's defensive coordinator in 1972. Then Starr gave him the additional title of assistant head coach prior to the 1975 season before firing him after the '79 season.

Photo by Vernon J. Biever

The durable Hanner (79) didn't miss a start as a defensive tackle in his first nine seasons with the Packers.

For Hanner, the game was changing and was becoming more pass-oriented and the Packers were doing poorly on the field. Starr felt a change in leadership was needed so Hanner was released.

In 1980, Hanner hooked up with the Chicago Bears in a front office job, but it just wasn't for him.

"I was a Packer," he said. "I was like a fish out of water with someone else, and especially the Bears."

So, the next year he was back with the Packers, this time as a scout. And a scout he remained, until the recent retirement announcement.

"I'd suspect I'm going to be doing a lot of nothing from now on," the old warrior joked, "fishing a bit and spending more time with the grandkids."

Hanner and his wife of 42 years, Janie, live in Land O' Lakes, Fla., a few miles north of Tampa, and have a summer home near Florence, Wis. They have four children and 11 grandchildren. One son, Joel David Hanner III, is the head football coach at Marinette High School.

"Hanner had an amazing career," said Packers general manager Ron Wolf. "Thirteen years as a player, 15 as an assistant coach and 16 more as a scout. He dedicated the majority of his life to the Green Bay Packers, and in every position he held, he was outstanding. We will miss him very much."

Hanner couldn't have asked for much more.

"Yeah, it's been a heck of a ride ... a big ol' wonderful ride," he said. "You know, I never considered myself to be a great player, or anything like that. But I played alongside some great guys, and was a member of a tremendous team, maybe the best there ever was. And that's something."

Jack Pearson is a freelance writer from Brookfield, Wis.

Packer trivia winner

Bob "Curly" Danielson of Clear Lake, Wis., won a copy of "Packer Legends in Facts" by correctly answering a trivia question published in the March 1996 issue of the *Packer Report*.

Danielson was selected from a number of people who correctly answered that Bill "Gus" DeMoe was on the receiving end of the only touchdown pass thrown by the Packers during the 1921 season.

To win, all answers must be postmarked no later than one week from the date on the cover of the *Packer Report*. If there is more than one correct answer, a drawing will be held to select a winner. The books, which retail for $29.95, will be mailed out by Tech/Data Publications, Germantown, Wis., (414) 251-7027. To order or for more information on the book, call Pat Canter at Tech/Data Publications.

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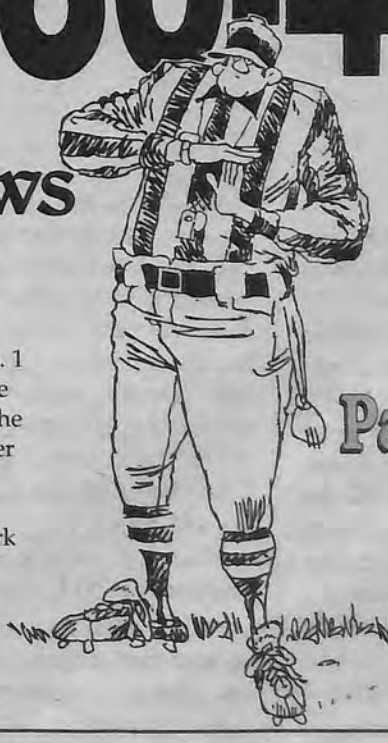

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SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR ROTARY AND TOUCHTONE PHONES

Pack keeps eye on cash supply

Team aims to boost reserve to compete better financially

By Todd Korth

Instead of paying workers with hard hats "big bucks" to improve their facilities, the Green Bay Packers are committed to dishing out more cash to their employees in the green and gold helmets in an effort to continue the team's success.

The Packers reported a record profit of $5.4 million for the fiscal year that ended on March 31, more than $3.4 million than the team made the year before.

The Packers' revenue topped $70 million for the first time, more than $8 million more than in 1995, thanks to a big boost in ticket, media and private box income.

"You look at that and say, 'Boy we're really doing well'," club treasurer John Underwood told about 200 shareholders at their annual meeting on May 29 in Green Bay. "Yes we are, however, the difficulties we're encountering is in spite of the fact that we had an increase in revenue of $8 million dollars from the previous year, our rank within the league is actually declining."

Underwood

Green Bay ranked 22nd in the NFL in total revenue in 1995. Compare that to the Dallas Cowboys' gross revenue of more than $100 million and the Packers are at an obvious disadvantage.

The bottom line is that the Packers need to increase their cash reserves in order to continue to compete in the upper echelon of the National Football League. The team's current cash reserve is between $20 and $25 million, Underwood said. Dallas spent a reported league-leading $40.2 million in signing bonuses last year while Green Bay spent $6.1 million.

"In the business we're in cash is king and every dollar we make in this franchise goes for one or two purposes," said Underwood. "It goes to the football team or it goes to the facilities. At this point we need to concentrate more on building cash and replenishing cash than on facilities."

Underwood pointed out that the Packers have invested $43.188 million in facilities over the last 12 years. The Packers spent $4.2 million on the construction of the Don Hutson Center, a state-of-the-art indoor practice and training facility in 1994. Green Bay has also improved its administrative facilities and this year is spending at least $3.5 million by adding a second Jumbotron replay board.

"We've invested very, very heavily in our facilities," Underwood said.

That's about to change.

The Packers had been considering renovating the press box, installing a new heating system and a fence around the stadium, but those projects will likely be shelved. The team will be focused on retaining such stars as quarterback Brett Favre and defensive end Reggie White or luring other standouts to Green Bay.

"We intend to win," Underwood said. "I think on the field both in the regular and the post-season last year, we've accomplished things that we haven't seen here in 30 years. With the reality of the competition, particularly regarding signing bonuses, it's really critical that our strategy here now is to build and replenish cash so that we do have the funds to compete."

The Packers plan to do whatever they can to raise their cash supply.

"Ticket pricing is something that has to be continually reviewed," Underwood said. "Our Pro Shop is becoming a much more attractive area. It has generated good funds for us. Our marketing efforts are critical. Other events include the possibility of concerts or festivals at Lambeau Field, direct TV and other media revenue ... NFL Properties and corporate sponsorship."

The team improved its revenue to $70.294 million in a number of ways, but more than half of the $8 million jump came from moving all of its home games to Lambeau Field (an increase of $2.5 to $2.6 million) and the addition of 90 luxury boxes (up $2.2 million from the year before). The team's road gate of nearly $7 million was also a record and its television and radio income, which accounts for 55.4% of its total revenue, was up more than $1 million to $38,962,954.

Underwood said the team ranked 18th in the NFL in total revenue in 1993, 20th in '94 and 22nd last year.

Why the decline? Underwood gave three reasons.

"Jacksonville and Carolina generated big revenue. They came into the league as the top revenue ballclubs in the NFL.

"Secondly, with all the franchise relocation deals that have been going on, there have been some stadium deals that include personal seat licenses and other mechanisms that you've been reading about regularly which have generated a tremendous amount of revenue for some of the franchises.

"Third, we've been very conservative in our pricing policies. For example, our average ticket ranked 29th out of 30 in the NFL. Our private box revenue has been lower than most of the other ballclubs that do have private boxes."

Meanwhile, the team's cash flow was a negative $2.68 million in '94, a negative $4.825 million in '95 and a negative $3.616 million last year. The team's cash reserve of $37,503 for the fiscal year that just ended was more than $16,000 less than in '95.

"We have been paying for all of our improvements in cash," said Robert C. Gallagher of the board of directors. "While we've taken some short-term loans, we've chosen not to extend any long-term debt to free the franchise from any future liability. All of our ready cash, we've kind of put to work in our facility."

So now it's time to pay more attention to the players.

SEE **MEETING** PAGE **25**

Packers' balance sheets

ASSETS		
Current assets	**1996**	**1995**
Cash	$37,503	$53,778
Current maturities of investments	1,300,234	671,136
Unamortized signing bonuses	6,187,800	3,879,501
Deferred income taxes	700,000	775,000
Other current assets	2,151,982	1,191,262
Total current assets	10,377,519	6,570,677
Investments	**23,536,116**	**21,404,210**
Property and equipment:		
Stadium, buildings and equipment	47,051,103	40,821,674
Less - accumulated depreciation	(19,300,554)	(18,371,796)
Net property and equipment	27,750,549	22,449,878
Other assets:		
Unamortized signing bonuses	6,174,900	5,667,501
Deferred income taxes	0	413,336
Other noncurrent assets	946,801	191,787
Total other assets	7,121,701	6,272,624
TOTAL ASSETS	**$68,785,885**	**$56,697,389**
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Cash overdraft	$-0-	$ -0-
Current maturities of long-term liabilities	1,424,066	1,319,168
Notes payable	4,702,866	2,500,000
Accounts payable	573,724	2,008,183
Accrued expenses	1,649,266	653,817
Accrued income taxes	1,117,711	0
Deferred revenues	2,138,000	1,576,000
Total current liabilities	$11,605,633	$8,057,168
Long-term liabilities:		
Note payable	1,947,134	0
Deferred compensation	5,297,929	4,885,254
Litigation settlement	1,400,000	2,100,000
Deferred income taxes	283,931	0
Total long-term liabilities	$8,928,994	$6,985,254
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock and additional paid in capital	116,564	116,539
Retained earnings	45,982,393	40,541,765
Unrealized gain on investments - net	2,152,301	996,663
Total stockholders' equity	$48,251,258	$41,654,967
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	**$68,785,885**	**$56,697,389**

Statements of income

OPERATING INCOME	**1996**	**1995**
Ticket and media income:		
Home games (net)	$9,116,329	$8,536,061
Road games	6,955,224	6,361,911
Television and radio	38,962,954	37,258,282
Total ticket and media income	55,034,507	52,156,254
Other operating income:		
Private box income	$3,775,000	$1,650,000
NFL Properties income	3,152,329	2,586,123
Expansion/revenue sharing income	2,279,351	1,800,000
Other	6,053,078	4,007,693
Total other operating income	$15,259,758	$10,043,816
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	**$70,294,265**	**$62,200,070**
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Players costs	$41,453,688	$41,998,619
Game expenses	1,782,233	1,578,742
General and administrative	19,494,478	16,048,148
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	**$62,730,379**	**$59,625,509**
PROFIT FROM OPERATIONS	**$7,563,886**	**$2,574,561**
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE):		
Interest expense	$(403,210)	$(409,756)
Interest and dividend income	1,689,784	1,018,993
Gain on sale of assets	1,090,168	224,179
Income before provision for income taxes	9,940,628	3,407,977
Provision for income taxes	4,500,000	1,375,000
NET INCOME	**$5,440,628**	**$2,032,977**

Meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

"We had our best year ever," Underwood said. "We intend to win. To accomplish that, our goal is to focus more on building and replenishing cash as we move ahead."

Elected to board: Pat Richter, director of athletics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and John M. MacDonough, chairman and chief executive officer of the Miller Brewing Company, were elected to the board of directors during the annual stockholders' meeting.

Richter replaces George W. Conway, who has taken emeritus status. MacDonough replaces John P. Bowlin, who resigned.

Since the board's nominating committee had already concluded its process for this year's annual meeting, the vacancy left by the May 12 death of director Eugene W. Sladky will be filled at next year's meeting, President Robert E. Harlan said.

In addition to Richter and MacDonough, 14 directors were re-elected to the Packer board for three-year terms. They include Gallagher, Harlan, Terry J. Bogart, Donald F. Harden, John C. Koeppler, Thomas M. Olejniczak, Herman J. Reckelberg, James A. Temp, Leo J. Scherer, Fred N. Trowbridge, Jr. and William J. Tyrell, all of Green Bay, and Robert C. Buchanan of Appleton, Ronald Sadoff of Fond du Lac and Allan H. "Bud" Selig of Milwaukee.

Seat licenses at Lambeau Field? It's an ugly reality but possible

By Todd Korth

Like it or not, the day may come when Packer fans may be required to pay a certain sum of money on top of what they pay for a ticket just to sit in a seat at Lambeau Field.

Seat licensing is just one way many teams around the league are raising money to compete financially in the National Football League these days. Seat licensing is already in place in St. Louis, Carolina and Oakland. Other current and future NFL cities like Nashville, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Washington are planning to license their seats.

Seat licensing was designed for teams and their fans to help pay for a new stadium or upkeep on a stadium instead of requesting public money. In some cases, the fee per seat is for a lifetime. In others, the license is for a certain number of years.

The league's only publicly-owned franchise, the Packers have funded their own improvements to their facilities to the tune of more than $43 million in the last 12 years. More than $26 million has been spent on the team's revenue-producing facilities, like private boxes, club seats and the Pro Shop, and close to $17 million has gone toward non-revenue facilities, like the Don Hutson Center, scoreboards and the administration building. That's not the case in other cities.

Club treasurer John Underwood and chief financial negotiator Mike Reinfeldt recently studied four NFL teams – Jacksonville, Baltimore, Carolina and Cleveland – to determine how they fund improvements in their facilities.

"What we found in those four is the facilities investments amounted to $824 million of the five cities studied," Underwood told shareholders at their annual meeting on May 29. "Of the $824 million, $299 million or 36 percent was from private sources. On the other hand, $525 million of total or 64 percent came from public sources."

> ***"I hope we don't ever reach the point in Green Bay where we have to have seat licensing."***
> ***Packers president Bob Harlan***

The Packers do not require fans to buy a license for a seat nor do they have any plans in place.

Whether or not the Packers will be forced to play the personal seat licensing game depends on how well they do in other areas, but team president Bob Harlan stressed his feelings on the issue to shareholders.

"I hope we don't ever reach the point in Green Bay where we have to have seat licensing," Harlan said.

Underwood said the team cannot rule out counting on taxpayer involvement in the future.

"As I've said, we've made a tremendous investment in the facilities, but we need to concentrate now on building and replenishing cash," Underwood said. "The other teams with whom we compete with are receiving tremendous public support for their facilities and we may possibly reach that same point at some future date."

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Wolf: Dallas still has edge

Packers' GM says Cowboys team to beat

By Todd Korth

When Ron Wolf talks, Green Bay Packers fans listen.

So when the Packers general manager was asked at the May 29 stockholders meeting what he has done to close the gap on the Dallas Cowboys, he didn't beat around the bush.

"Quite frankly Dallas has much better players than Green Bay," Wolf said. "What we've tried to do is narrow the gap with the infusion of better players, but they still outweigh us. I could stand here and (expletive) you, but I'm not going to do that. They have 11 or 12 All-Pro players. We have two."

The Cowboys have also beaten the Packers six straight times, including a victory in the National Football Conference Championship Game on Jan. 14.

Wolf feels the Packers currently have the second-best team in the NFC behind the Cowboys. He also said the NFC's Central Division will be perhaps the most competitive in the National Football League.

"We're all sort of close," Wolf told about 200 stockholders. "Detroit improved themselves dramatically. Chicago with the addition of (Bryan) Cox is a much better team than they were last year. They're going to have (Rashaan) Salaam for the whole get-go this time. That should make them better. (Erik) Kramer finally got comfortable with their offense.

"We could go to Minnesota and they could put out nine helmets and two players, and we could find a way to screw that up.

"I think we have to be the favorites, but there's enough people close enough to us that we have to respect them. It's not going to be an easy situation for us."

As he has done in the past four annual evaluations, Wolf reviewed the team by position. Here's what he had to say:

Wide receivers: Wolf said Robert Brooks will help the team improve this season after catching a career-high 102 passes last year for 1,497 yards and 13 touchdowns.

"He's a go-to guy, something he was at South Carolina and something we thought he was last year when I talked to all you doubting faces in here," Wolf said. "You thought I was on something a little bit higher than pain medication, but we really and truly thought he was going to be an excellent receiver. He came in and played and did everything expected of him."

Wolf said the Packers will not pursue veteran receiver Mark Ingram, leaving the starting spot opposite Brooks to Anthony Morgan.

"Anthony Morgan at the same time demonstrated that he understands our system fully and he'll probably be the other receiver with Brooks as we start," Wolf said.

Others who will be battling for playing time in perhaps the deepest position on the team include Antonio Freeman, rookie Derrick Mayes, Terry Mickens, Charlie Simmons, Don Beebe and Allan DeGraffenreid.

"We're very comfortable with the depth of our team and we're very comfortable with where we are right now. We are without question the second best team in the National (Football) Conference. Without question."

Ron Wolf

Wolf has been impressed with Mayes, Green Bay's second-round draft pick from Notre Dame.

"Derrick, I think, is going to push hard should he come in and realize the potential that he possesses," Wolf said. "He could conceivably become a starting football player in a very short period of time.

"Antonio Freeman came in as an unheralded rookie last year and really did an outstanding job.

"In essence, at that particular position we finally have some depth and we finally have some quality. Terry Mickens is as solid a player as we have on our football team, but he can rarely get on the field."

Tight ends: The Packers accomplished their main objective this off-season and signed Pro Bowler Mark Chmura.

Chmura, who caught a career-high 54 passes (40 more than his previous career best) last year for 679 yards, will currently be backed up by Jeff Thomason and Mike Bartrum.

The Packers have been trying to re-sign former Pro-Bowler Keith Jackson, but the negotiations have come to a standstill. Wolf said the New Orleans Saints have guaranteed a starting spot for Jackson. The Packers have been believed to have offered Jackson around $1.2 million per season as a backup to Chmura.

"The only solution to that is that we pay him more money, which is what football is all about today," Wolf said. "It's not he who has the best player, but he who has the most money to spend and can buy the player or protect your own players.

"Now it's who has the most dollars. Who can spend the most dollars and who can buy the best players. That's exactly what that is all about. That's what this game as come to."

If Green Bay is unable to re-sign Jackson, Wolf has confidence in Thomason and Bartrum.

"We have two people that no one knows about, but believe me, they're solid football players and very good players," Wolf said. "In our system they can make themselves known in a hurry."

Offensive line: Wolf called this position "a little questionable" last year.

He did something about it over the off-season by signing veteran free agent Bruce Wilkerson from the Jacksonville Jaguars and drafting three quality linemen, including No. 1 pick John Michels from Southern California.

Wilkerson has been a starter in the NFL for eight years and has played every position along the line except center.

Wilkerson

"To us that's his value," Wolf said. "We finally have somebody you can put in a game in a pressure situation and have quality depth. That's what he'll provide."

Michels will back up Ruettgers. Left guard Aaron Taylor is expected to return by the start of the regular season. Veteran Frank Winters will start at center with second-year pro Adam Timmerman at guard. Earl Dotson, will start at right tackle for the second straight year.

Gary Brown has shown the ability to play either guard or tackle while Mike Arthur provides experience as a backup at center and guard.

"We can move people around," Wolf said. "That should offset the initial blow of the loss of Aaron Taylor. I, for one, honestly think Taylor will be with us at the start of the year. The way he's progressing we hope that's the case."

Wolf said the team will not attempt to re-sign Galbreath, a ninth-year pro who started the last three seasons at right guard. Galbreath, who made slightly more than $1 million last year, is commanding much more than the Packers are willing to pay.

Quarterbacks: About the only questions at this position is how Brett Favre will rebound after receiving treatment for an addiction to pain medication during the off-season and who will be the third backup after Jim McMahon.

Wolf feels Favre can do as well as he did last year, but he needs to straighten himself out first.

"He's got to get his act together," Wolf said. "Everyone knows that. I'm not going to dwell on that. He's an exciting player who has probably ever graced Lambeau Field or any field in the National Football League for that matter. We expect him to come back here in excellent shape both mentally and physically and have the same kind of year he had last year."

Doug Pederson, a fourth-year pro, and Kyle Wachholtz, a rookie from Southern California, will compete for the third-string spot.

Backfield: This is a position Wolf feels is getting deeper and deeper with talent.

"We think with the maturity of Edgar Bennett plus the addition of some of our young players – Dorsey Levens, William Henderson and some of us hope Travis Jervey falls into this category – that we're now going to have more depth than we've had before," Wolf said.

The Packers also drafted running back Chris Darkins from Minnesota, who has been impressive in the early going.

"He looks like an exceptionally young prospect," Wolf said. "We'll have to see what happens there."

Specialists: Kicker Chris Jacke and punter Craig Hentrich will again provide veteran experience and consistency at this position. Hentrich will likely be kicking off, but it depends on how he and Jacke do in practice.

"Our kicking game hopefully will be solid," Wolf said. "We have an excellent punter, especially in the climatic conditions we're forced to play in in November and December. He's done an excellent job. Chris Jacke has done a very good job. For some reason he's not as good a kicker as he was when I got here. I'm just referring to his records over these past two years, but he's still one of the best kickers in the game.

"We feel very comfortable with our overall kicking game. That goes from the snapping phase to the holding phase to the kicking phase."

Defensive line: The line will be another position that will be quite deep with talent.

Anchored by ends Reggie White and Sean Jones, the Packers bolstered the middle of the line by signing unrestricted free agent Santana Dotson this off-season.

Green Bay also will be relying on help from Darius Holland, Gilbert Brown, Gabe Wilkins, Matt LaBounty, Shannon Clavelle and Bob Kuberski.

Wolf feels Brown has unlimited potential if he can hold back a little on his mother's home-cooking.

"He's on the verge of good things," Wolf said about Brown. "The thing we have to do with Gilbert is keep him away from mother. He's from Detroit and every time he goes home to mom he comes back about 25 pounds heavier. If we can ever solve this riddle, believe me, we're going ot have a really good player."

Gilbert Brown

Holland and Wilkins are expected to play more this season. Green Bay lost nose tackle John Jurkovic to free agency, so Brown will likely be starting alongside Dotson.

"We're very confident that we have some young, solid football players in our defensive line that can step forward this year and give us the depth that we need," Wolf said. "Darius Holland needs to step

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

Wolf

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

forth and play. Gabe Wilkins ... it's time for him. He's had his two years of redshirting, if you will. Now it's time for him to get in here and play."

Linebackers: Wolf noted that this position has gotten weaker since he's arrived in Green Bay, which has left him puzzled.

"In the short four years I've been here, we've managed to make it the least strongest position on our football team," he said. "I can't understand it. I don't know what's happened."

The Packers, who lost out on a serious bid to sign Cornelius Bennett in February, signed free agent Ron Cox from the Chicago Bears after losing starting middle linebacker Fred Strickland to the Dallas Cowboys.

Cox will likely start in the middle between George Koonce and Wayne Simmons. Bernardo Harris, who signed a four-year contract during the off-season, also will be fighting for a starting spot.

"We think Ron Cox can be a significant improvement over Fred Strickland, but with Fred we've done things that haven't been done here in a long time," Wolf said. "We're very sorry to lose him, particularly to the Dallas Cowboys. That may turn out to be a blessing. Sometimes you don't make the move, people make the move for you. In today's football, that may be the best thing.

"George Koonce needs to play better than he played last year and he understands that. Wayne Simmons finally stepped up and demonstrated he's a quality player. There's not much depth behind there, but we think we've got some young players that might surprise."

Cornerbacks: Craig Newsome and Doug Evans will start. Rookie Tyrone Williams will challenge Keith Crawford, Matthew Dorsett, Roderick Mullen and Bucky Brooks for playing time in the team's passing defense.

"Evans is a guy who should he realize what he has could be a Pro Bowl player," Wolf said. "It's about time for him to turn it on and reach that level.

Safeties: Wolf said seventh-year pro LeRoy Butler needs to be in top shape from the start of the season if he is going to make the Pro Bowl team.

"There's no reason why he shouldn't be the best safety in the National Football Conference," Wolf said. "There's no reason at all. LeRoy has to come in and demonstrate that he'll pay the price in conditioning. That's what is keeping him out of the Pro Bowl and that's why he's not getting the recognition that he justly deserves.

"The football season is longer than the last eight games and we need him to address that. He's as good a player as there is, probably the best player we have in our secondary."

Wolf said that he is happy with the quality of athletes currently on the team.

"We're very comfortable with the depth of our team and we're very comfortable with where we are right now," Wolf said. "We are without question the second best team in the National (Football) Conference. Without question.

"It's easy for me to stand up here and say all these things but, still, we have to do that. We have to demonstrate that we're capable of that on the field. With the schedule the National Football League has given us this year, we'll see if we can do it, if we can back up our own words. We're a good team and hopefully we can see if we're an even better team in 1996."

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The other Green Bay

Art Daley

Featured columnist

To be sure, us Packer nuts are still excited about this upcoming season, but would you believe that the postmaster of Green Bay isn't necessarily a Packer fan?

And there's this guy down at a Green Bay garage who isn't quite sure who the Packers are.

And then there's a retired Green Bay school teacher who became aware of the Packers through a tragic happening.

Sound a little far-fetched? There is a catch:

Those nice folks mentioned above are from Green Bay, Virginia. Yep, Green Bay, Virginia! That little Virginia village is the only other Green Bay in the United States.

The Virginia version of Packerville is about 60 miles south and west of Richmond. It has this distinction: Highway 360 goes right through the center of town. That highway bypasses all other little communities from Richmond to Danville, Virginia.

Why Green Bay, since there's no water around? It was named after the big Bay trees. It was a thriving little town back in the 1960s with a population of about 300. Now it's down to 40 to 50 souls.

The Green Bay post office is run by Charles Barton, who confessed that he's not a follower of the Packers. However, "When I was young, I was a big fan of Bart Starr. He seemed like he was a wonderful person besides his ability as quarterback. I was younger then and I always idolized him," Barton said.

I reminded Charles that Starr always was and still is a wonderful person and many, many people idolized Bart when he was doing great things for the Pack. Also, I told Charles to keep an eye on young Brett Favre, who could be a quarterback like Starr.

That guy down at the garage had to be educated about our favorite subject, the Packers. He got an earful and maybe come next fall, he'll read about the Packers in the sports pages or watch on television.

The former school instructor is Mrs. Naomi N. Jenkins, a 1939 graduate of Green Bay (Va.) High School, whose acquaintance with Green Bay, Wisconsin, and the Packers resulted from a very sad discovery.

On the front page of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, there was a picture of three boys aged 12, four and two years. They had died in a house fire along with their father. The four year old, Corey Lee Edwards, was wearing a jacket showing in large letters "Green Bay Packers" around a large "G" insignia of the team.

This was a most shocking discovery by Mrs. Jenkins, since it came a few days after I'd called her to inquire about her knowledge of another Green Bay and, of course, the Packers.

I had often wondered if there was another Green Bay in the U.S. and uncovered only one. Trying to telephone anybody in Green Bay, Virginia, isn't easy but it led me to the post office and Barton referred me to Mrs. Jenkins "because she knows all about Green Bay."

Green Bay, Virginia, never was a cultural center, but Mrs. Jenkins put it this way. "The division superintendent of schools often visited the villages of Virginia and after stopping at our high school he said that Green Bay seemed to have a higher degree of culture than most."

Besides the high school, Green Bay once had five stores and the railroad had a stop there. "Now you can't buy bread or milk here," Naomi said.

Photos by Katie Borr

Green Bay, Va., has a post office, left, that's just down the road from the sign that marks the entrance into town.

Green Bay, Wisconsin, could have been named Fort Howard, LaBaye or even Navarino if somebody hadn't decided that the "bay" of water was green. Since the bay was green, it was natural to call the budding community Green Bay.

Mrs. Jenkins said that years and years ago "our name was Prices" because of so many families of that name. It was becoming confused with a nearby village named "Rice" and thus was renamed Green Bay.

Now that you folks have had your combined history and geography lesson, let's get ready for some football. Packer kind, of course.

As the Packers approach their 78th season, 76th in the NFL, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Phan are convinced the 1996 Packers will go all the way to the Super Bowl. That's the Packers' goal, of course, but there will be no predictions from the Packer camp.

Coach Mike Holmgren will be starting his fifth season at the Packer helm. Since football chief Ron Wolf took over the Packers' field fortunes in 1992 and hired Holmgren, the Packers have put together four straight winning seasons (9-7, 9-7, 9-7 and 11-5) and playoff appearances after the last three seasons. In the playoffs, they beat Detroit twice and San Francisco once, then lost three straight to Dallas.

Now the Packers are ranked among the top three teams in the National Football Conference, joining the Cowboys and 49ers, both perennial Super Bowl entrants. The Packers will play those two teams 35 days apart on Monday nights this season – the 49ers at Lambeau Field Oct. 14 and the Cowboys in Dallas Nov. 18.

A year ago, awful things were predicted for the Packers because of the departure of Sterling Sharpe and Bryce Paup. The so-called experts were wrong, as you know.

This new season could be interesting for all you Packer fans around the U.S. And something tells me that our neighbors out in Green Bay, Virginia, might be keeping an eye on the Green Bay, Wisconsin, Packers for the first time.

(PS –There is another Green Bay but this one is in Ontario, Canada. It's a little village in the Manitoulin Island chain in upper Lake Huron.)

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Reggie tackles something new

Defensive end stars in debut on the big screen

Paula Martin

Packer people

How does a National Football League player spend the off-season?
Many may take time to recuperate from the rigorous season, train for the upcoming season, vacation or go back to school. But for Green Bay Packer defensive end Reggie White this time of the year presents an opportunity to tackle something new. He has ventured into an area unfamiliar to him – starring in a big screen movie, "Reggie's Prayer."

"It ain't as bad as practice," said White in a recent interview with the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.* "It's work, though. Not real hard work, but you've got to concentrate. You see stuff on TV that looks easy, but it's not."

"Reggie's Prayer" is a family action adventure of Reggie Knox (White), who is inspired by his father and mentor (Rosey Grier) to retire from professional football so he can work with at-risk teens. White's acting debut brings him face-to-face with some of the harsh realities of inner city life – drugs, danger and suicide.

Joining White on the screen are academy award nominee Pat Morita best known for his role as Mr. Miyagi in the "Karate Kid" and Cyik Cozart, who appeared in numerous movies such as "White Men Can't Jump," "Blue Chips" and newly released "Eraser."

The story takes place in Portland, Ore., where Knox becomes the head football coach and 10th grade history teacher at Portland Central High School. A longtime friend and assistant coach Bobby Fess (Cozart) and principal Osaki (Morita) help Knox in his journey to help the kids living in the inner city. An accidental shooting in the locker room sends Knox into the wilderness along with forest ranger (M.C. Hammer) to pursue a two-bit criminal Mr. Portola (Paul "The Giant" Wight, the 7-foot-2 World Championship Wrestling champion) and a teenage hostage from the football team.

Appearing in cameo roles will be Packer head coach Mike Holmgren as a janitor; quarterback Brett Favre as a referee; tight end Keith Jackson as an assistant football coach; Pittsburgh Steelers running back Jerome Bettis; 1995 Heisman Trophy winner and Houston Oilers running back Eddie George; New Orleans Saints offensive tackle William Roaf; Buffalo Bills linebacker Bryce Paup; and former Chicago Bears running back Gale Sayers. White's wife, Sara, and children, Jeremy, 9, and Jecolia, 7, also will be in the film.

Filming began in early May under the direction of Paul McKellips, a native of Neenah, Wis., who is making his debut as a director and is founder of Oregon Pacific Pictures. The film is expected to be completed Sept. 15 and in the theaters in January. In addition to Portland, segments of the movie will be filmed in Knoxville, Tenn., and Green Bay.

Mr. Costanza or Vince Lombardi? – Producers for a national Nike commercial recently were at Lambeau Field to film an advertisement which will be aired in August. No information was released as to the content of the commercial, but producers did confirm the star is Jerry Stiller, who plays George Costanza's father on the sitcom *Seinfeld.* He portrays former Green Bay Packer coach Vince Lombardi. Filmmakers also shot footage at St. Norbert College in De Pere and at a local Green Bay diner.

Oregon Pacific Pictures photo

Pat Morita (Osaki), left, talks to Reggie White (Reggie Knox) in the coach's office during filming of "Reggie's Prayer." White plays a football coach and Morita is the school's principal.

I do – Wedding bells were ringing for many Packer players and personnel during the offseason. Recently married were tackle Earl Dotson and Janell ... cornerback Roderick Mullen and Deneca ... punter Craig Hentrich and Jayme ... guard/tackle Lindsay Knapp and Sarah ... assistant trainer Kurt Fielding and Laura Zipperer ... pro personnel assistant John Schneider and Tracey Mahoney.

Hentrich

Packer personnel who will be exchanging vows in July include assistant equipment manager Tom Bakken and Keri Smith on the 6th and assistant director of marketing Ralph Ockenfels and Janette Lahiff on the 13th.

Jenny Holmgren married Josh Cobbley of Grand Rapids, Mich., in early June. She is the first of Mike and Kathy Holmgren's four daughters to be wed. Josh and Jenny, 22, plan to reside in Chicago. They met while attending Chicago's North Park College.

Booking it – Steve Cameron, author of *The Packers! Seventy-five Seasons of Memories and Mystique in Green Bay,* returned to the Packer offices during a recent minicamp. Cameron is updating *The Packers!* with information from the 1995 season and is working on a book about Brett Favre titled *Brett Favre, Huck Finn Grows Up.* Expect to see *The Packers!* ($23.95) at a bookstore near you in August. Favre's book ($24.95 plus $3.50 for shipping and handling) should reach bookstore shelves by September or can be ordered by calling 1-800-285-5786.

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Election to Hall would be 'a thrill'

10th time as finalist may be the charm for Kramer

By Jerry Karpowicz

MENOMONEE FALLS, Wis. – You could see the answer in the 60-year-old eyes and hear it in the hearty chuckle of Jerry Kramer.

Older Packer fans can visualize Kramer pulling from his right guard position and flattening somebody to open a hole for Paul Hornung during his legendary Packer sweep. Or clearing room for Jim Taylor on a play called "37 Brown." Or leading Bart Starr into the end zone in the Ice Bowl.

Kramer, recently chosen as a finalist for election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame by its seniors committee, may finally make the trip to Canton, Ohio, and become the 13th member of the Packers' "Glory Years" teams in the Hall.

Picture the induction ceremony: Kramer getting into a three-point stance with Bart Starr, crouched behind him and to his left. Kramer firing out after an imaginary snap and Starr diving into a make-believe end zone in a 1990s replay of the most famous touchdown in Packer history.

> ***"It was like having an ice cream sundae, with everything but the cherry on top. And the Hall of Fame would be the cherry on top."***
>
> ***Jerry Kramer***

Kramer was asked at the 26th annual Vince Lombardi Memorial Classic golf tournament at North Hills Country Club about the possibility of re-enacting that play in Canton, assuming those Hall of Fame powers that be come to their senses and welcome Kramer into their club.

"Well, you know, we've almost got enough for a team," Kramer said of Hall of Fame members from the teams that won the five National Football League championships, including the first two Super Bowls. "There are 11 guys in there now, plus the coach (Lombardi).

"I guess we could do the sneak. We could do the sweep. Or we could do the '37 Brown' (play) Jimmy loves so well. Or we could play a little defense. It would be great to join all the other Packers in the Hall. It would be a great thrill."

It would also be long overdue.

After all, this is a guy who is a member of the NFL's "All-50 Year Team" that was selected in 1970.

"I think Jerry will get in," linemate Bob Skoronski said. "As a matter of fact, I know it will happen. Players look at the other players who are there and say why not so-and-so. Jerry's had it coming for a long time. He's certainly deserving."

Photo by Allen Fredrickson

Jerry Kramer, right, shares a laugh with Packers' guard Aaron Taylor inside the Don Hutson Center during the recent June minicamp.

Kramer has been a finalist nine times but has never been elected. The last time he was a finalist was in 1987. Why then has it taken so long? Politics? Too much of a great thing?

"There's always that danger," Skoronski said. "A lot of people are worried that you've got too many people from the Lombardi Era. There's a lot of worry that way, but so what? That's the way it is. I'm sure that's always been one of the things in the background. How many guys are (the Packers) gonna have."

"The people on some of the other great teams, the Miami teams and the Steelers teams don't have that many. And I'm sure they're squawking about it. And I'm sure the press people that are submitting names are trying to get their people in. So it's not an easy thing.

"But whenever you get it, it's good. It doesn't make any difference."

Should Kramer get into the Hall of Fame, he would join Lombardi, Herb Adderly, Willie Davis, Forrest Gregg, Paul Hornung, Henry Jordan, Ray Nitschke, Jim Ringo, Bart Starr, Jim Taylor, Emlen Tunnell and Willie Wood. The Hall of Fame's 36-member Board of Selectors will vote on Jan. 25, 1997, a day prior to Super Bowl XXXI.

Maybe Nitschke, still a menacing figure, should go to New Orleans and make sure his old teammate gets his due.

"It's nice that they've got his name there," Nitschke said. "He has a good chance of going in next year."

When you listen to Kramer, you do not hear bitterness about not having his bust in Canton.

"It's a funny series of emotions," said Kramer, who is in the vegetable and fruit brokerage business and also has a telecommunications company. "You go through the early times when you hurt a little bit. And then you're angry a little bit, and then later on comes the realization that it's been a wonderful career. It's been a wonderful experience, and football has been awfully good to Jerry Kramer.

"It was like having an ice cream sundae, with everything but the cherry on top. And the Hall of Fame would be the cherry on top.

"But it's been a wonderful experience, a very positive experience and a tremendous impact on my life, being with Coach Lombardi and all the wonderful Packer players. So then you say well, you've been pretty damn lucky. It's been a pretty good run and things have been good and if you don't make it to the Hall of Fame, well, that's OK, because it's been a wonderful journey and a wonderful career.

"And then the nomination comes."

It's a bouquet, Kramer said. It's nice to be nominated. A big deal? Not really. But ...

"Then you go by Lambeau Field and you see those names up on the ring in the stadium and you go 'wow,'" he said. "Your heart starts to beat a little faster and you get a little more emotional about it. So there's a whole range of emotions."

The Lombardi Classic has become Kramer's rite of spring. He can't remember missing more than a couple, making the trip from Parma, Idaho. He used to play in 25 to 30 events such as this. He plays about half that total now, and he doesn't like playing unless he can bring along some of his family.

The Lombardi is always on the schedule. It all goes back to the sensational '60s. The best of times.

"This is an excellent tournament," Kramer said. "It's extremely well-run, a quality, class event all the way.

"And you've got all your old pals here and all the wonderful fans from Wisconsin. So it's not only a great tournament, run extremely well, but there are so many nice feelings here and so many nice people to visit with."

Next year, let's hope those people are visiting with a new member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Jerry Karpowicz is a freelance writer from West Allis, Wis.

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Bears' Cox says back is OK

By David Marran

Bryan Cox's agent was downplaying the linebacker's recent back problems.

Cox, who signed a free agent contract with the Bears in the off-season, was told to take it easy after an MRI revealed a bulging disk condition in his back.

Cox participated in all four days of a recent minicamp although teammates did say Cox complained of numbness in his back when he laid down.

"He's had a back deal for a while," agent **Cliff Brady** told the *Arlington Heights (Ill.) Daily Herald*. "He took a week or 10 days off from golf, which was actually the most difficult part of the whole thing for him.

"But he's back to golfing, so there's no problem. He's just not used to working out this hard. The Dolphins never worked this hard in the off-season."

My achin' thumb: Running back **Rashaan Salaam** suffered a broken thumb during a June minicamp but was still able to participate in receiving drills. The Bears were reportedly impressed with his one-handed catching skills.

New QB: The Bears signed veteran quarterback **Dave Krieg** to a one-year contract in late May.

With **Steve Walsh** gone to St. Louis, Krieg will be **Erik Kramer's** top backup.

"With his experience, if something happened to Erik, he's a guy who can go in and win for you," offensive coordinator **Ron Turner** said.

Stanford product **Steve Stenstrom** is the Bears' third quarterback.

Extension: Coach **Dave Wannstedt** recently received a three-year contract extension.

Free guys: Guard **Todd Burger** and backup fullback **Tony Carter** entered the final week of June as the Bears' remaining free agents.

Tampa Bay general manager **Rich McKay** is hoping new coach **Tony Dungy** can right his franchise's ship.

"For a number of years, this team has screamed for one thing and that's stability," McKay told the *St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times*. "That's the most impressive thing about Tony. His calmness. He isn't one who reacts emotionally. He's very thoughtful and patient and that seems to carry through in all aspects of his life."

New home: Tampa Stadium, otherwise known as "The Big Sombrero," will be getting another name. Beginning this season, the 29-year-old home of the Bucs will be renamed Houlihan's Stadium after the restaurant chain run by Bucs' owner **Malcom Glazer**.

He's back: The Bucs re-signed restricted free agent tight end **Dave Moore**. That signing could signal the end of the road for backup tight ends **Tyji Armstrong** and **Cedric Saunders**. Dungy will probably keep just two backups for starter and ex-Packer **Jackie Harris.**

Gone: **Reggie Roby**, last year's punter, signed a free agent contract with the Houston Oilers.

The Bucs waived the 34-year-old Roby after he refused to take a pay cut. Roby signed a four-year contract with the Oilers. Two of Roby's children live in Houston.

Happy man: Quarterback **Trent Dilfer** was pleased the Bucs brought in **Mike Shula** as offensive coordinator.

"Shula has incredible attention to detail," Dilfer said.

Shula, a former Bear assistant, chastised Dilfer for loafing it during a May workout.

"To be talking about not taking plays off when it is a morning in the middle of May ... that's something. I think we're going to work great together."

Re-signed: Wide receiver **Courtney Hawkins** re-signed for one year at about $750,000.

The Vikings recently signed quarterback **Warren Moon** to a three-year, $15 million contract.

Moon will turn 42 during the 1998 season which is the final year of the pact so it's unlikely he'll be around to finish out the contract. However, Moon will reportedly receive a $2 million signing bonus and a $2 million dollar reporting bonus.

Moon threw 33 touchdown passes last year in becoming the first Viking QB to start all 16 games since **Tommy Kramer** in 1979.

"You can talk about Warren's age all you want but we'd rather talk about productivity," Vikings' vice-president **Jeff Diamond** said.

Moon was backed up last year by rookie **Chad May** and **Brad Johnson.**

Like him: Head coach **Dennis Green** said running back **Amp Lee** is going to play more and **Dave Palmer** will see more time at wide out.

Lee finished in the top 20 in the NFC in rushing last season despite being limited to third-down action. Palmer spent most of the last season returning punts but word has it that he has been working to become a regular receiver and is eyeing **Qadry Ismail's** spot.

Ouch: Tackle **Todd Steussie** underwent major shoulder surgery to correct nerve damage in May.

Steussie started every game the past two seasons. He was back in the weight room shortly after surgery and should be ready for training camp.

Addition: The Vikes signed free agent cornerback **Rod Smith**, who started every game for the Carolina Panthers last year.

Hot seat: Glauber put Green on the hot seat but added, "if I'm team president **Roger Headrick**, I ignore it all because Green is a solid coach who deserves to make it through what could be a difficult stretch with a rebuilding defense."

The Lions are trying to lock up quarterback **Scott Mitchell** to a long-term deal but have not been able to make any progress.

Mitchell, who is coming off a career year, has one year left on his contract but can't be designated a franchise player.

It appears that the Lions will either have to give the record-setting QB what he wants or watch the left-hander test the free agent market in 1997.

Addition: The Lions recently signed tight end **Pete Metzlaars** to back up **David Sloan.**

Metzlaars, a former Buffalo Bill, will most likely be used as a blocker in two tight end formations.

Knee repair: Cornerback **Corey Raymond** underwent arthroscopic surgery on his knee during the June minicamp.

Team doctors believe Raymond will have time to recover in time for training camp.

New home: The Lions and Detroit Tigers are talking about a two-sport stadium with a retractable roof.

Reports are that the Lions would prefer to work out a deal with the Silverdome. The Lions don't get any money from suites, concessions, parking or advertising.

The Lions and Tigers shared Tiger Stadium for many years before the Lions moved to the Pontiac Silverdome in the 1970s.

Big surprise: *The Sporting News'* **Bob Glauber** put head coach **Wayne Fontes** on the hot seat.

"He'll always be a marked man," Glauber writes of Fontes, "primarily because his teams live on the edge. If he could only get his teams off to faster starts, he'd be off this list entirely."

David Marran is sports editor of the Kenosha News.

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RAY NITSCHKE, Sunday, July 7, 11-2 p.m., $10 Flats - $15 All Others
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GERRY ELLIS, Saturday, July 20, 11-2 p.m., $6 Flats - $10 All Others
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Packers '96 transactions

Jan. 3 – signed linebacker Reggie Barnes; signed safety Othello Henderson; signed running back Tyrone Rush
Jan. 4 – signed linebacker Robert Bass from the practice squad; signed wide receiver Allen DeGraffenreid; signed guard-tackle Doug Skene
Jan. 10 – signed running back James Bostic; signed linebacker Reggie Freeman
Jan. 11 – signed safety Reggie Holt from the practice squad
Jan. 12 – claimed running back Randy Baldwin from San Francisco
Jan. 18 – signed linebacker Lamont Hollinquest
Feb. 5 – waived linebacker Joe Kelly
Feb. 14 – named Marty Mornhinweg as quarterbacks coach
Feb. 15 – re-signed tight end Mark Chmura
March 1 – re-signed linebacker Bernardo Harris
March 5 – re-signed fullback Brian Satterfield
March 7 – signed defensive lineman Santana Dotson from Tampa Bay; signed wide receiver Jeff Query
March 11 – signed quarterback Mike McCoy from the practice squad
March 13 – acquired defensive back Marcus Turner from New York Jets for a conditional, 1997 draft choice; re-signed tight end Mike Bartrum
March 25 – waived safety Othello Henderson; waived tackle Paul Hutchins; waived running back Tyrone Rush
March 29 – Re-signed defensive lineman Shannon Clavelle; issued offer sheet for linebacker Ron Cox
April 1 – Signed wide receiver Don Beebe from Carolina; released wide receiver Jeff Query
April 2 – released receiver Jeff Query; released safety Marcus Turner
April 3 – guard-tackle Doug Skene retired
April 4 – released safety Othello Henderson; released tackle Paul Hutchins; released defensive back Marcus Turner
April 9 – signed guard-tackle Lindsay Knapp
April 10 – signed linebacker Ron Cox, first right of refusal not exercised by the Chicago Bears; re-signed wide receiver Anthony Morgan
April 11 – re-signed free safety George Teague
April 12 – re-signed quarterback Jim McMahon
April 16 – signed punter Andy Caflisch
April 19 – signed offensive tackle Bruce Wilkerson
April 22 – signed kicker Richie Cunningham; waived linebacker Reggie Freeman
April 26 – signed defensive linemen Brad Keeney, Dirk Ochs and Walter Scott, offensive tackle Troy Stark and wide receiver Eric Matthews
May 10 – acquired defensive end Toddrick McIntosh in trade with New Orleans Saints for past considerations
May 13 – waived safety Marvin Goodwin
May 15 – signed defensive end Wendall Gaines and cornerback Tyrone Williams
May 20 – waived quarterback Mike McCoy
May 23 – re-signed cornerback Keith Crawford
May 28 – released safety Marvin Goodwin
May 31 – released quarterback Mike McCoy
June 5 – signed defensive back Lenny McGill
June 6 – waived running back Randy Baldwin; traded defensive back Lenny McGill to Atlanta Falcons for fullback Robert Baldwin
June 7 – signed wide receiver Rob Carpenter

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'96 PRESEASON

KICKOFF WEEKEND

Date	Opponents	CST	TV
Saturday, July 27	Indianapolis vs. New Orleans (Hall of Fame Game at Canton, Ohio)	1:30 p.m.	ABC
	Pittsburgh vs. San Diego (American Bowl, Tokyo)	9 p.m.	ESPN
	Oakland at Dallas	8 p.m.	

WEEK 1

Friday, August 2	**New England at Green Bay**	**7 p.m.**	**state**
	New Orleans at Detroit	8:30 p.m.	
	New York Giants at Jacksonville	7 p.m.	
	Oakland at Arizona	8 p.m.	
	Washington at Buffalo	6:30 p.m.	
Saturday, August 3	Atlanta at Seattle	9 p.m.	
	Chicago at Carolina	6:30 p.m.	
	Denver at San Francisco	3 p.m.	
	Houston vs. N.Y. Jets at Jackson, Miss.	7 p.m.	
	Indianapolis at Cincinnati	6:30 p.m.	
	St. Louis at Pittsburgh	5 p.m.	
	Philadelphia at Baltimore	6:30 p.m.	
	San Diego at Minnesota	6 p.m.	
	Tampa Bay at Miami	6 p.m.	
Monday, August 5	Dallas vs. Kansas City (American Bowl, Monterrey)	6 p.m.	ABC

WEEK 2

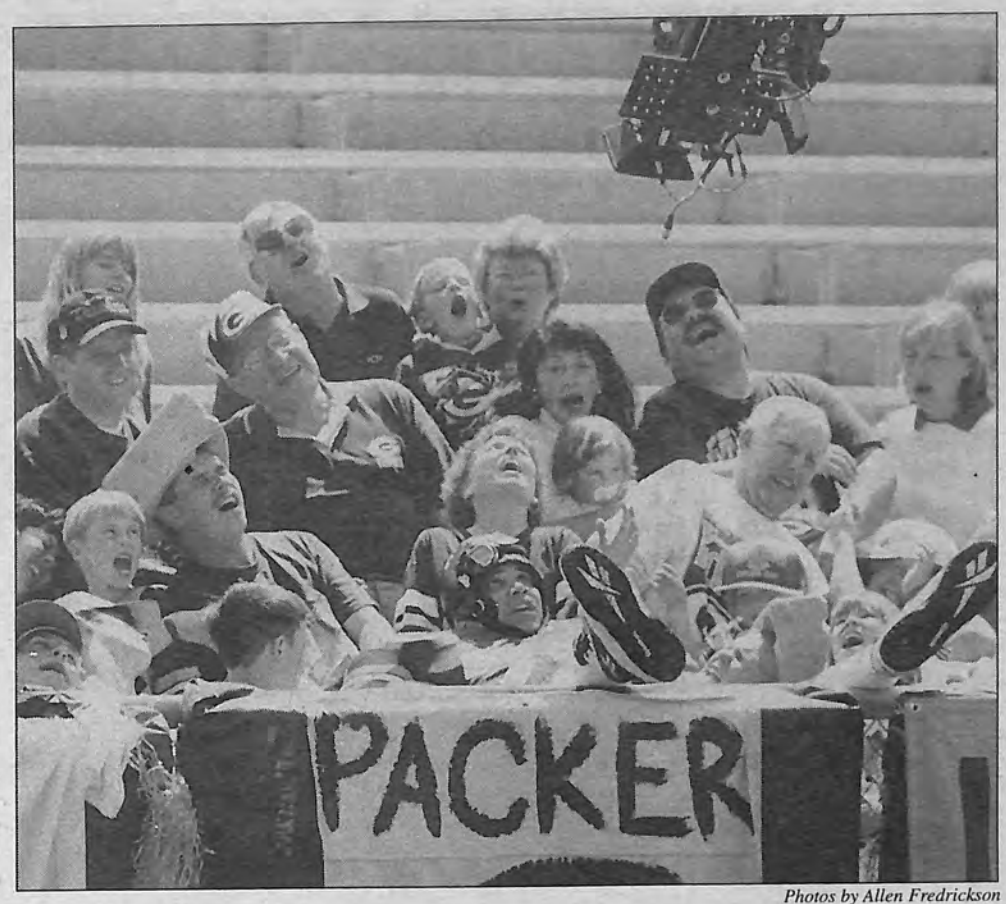
Thursday, August 8	Buffalo at Minnesota	7 p.m.	TNT
	New York Jets at Philadelphia	6:30 p.m.	
	Seattle at Oakland	7 p.m.	
Friday, August 9	Jacksonville at St. Louis	7 p.m	
	Washington at Detroit	6:30 p.m.	
Saturday, August 10	Atlanta at Tampa Bay	6:30 p.m.	
	Baltimore at New York Giants	noon	NBC
	Carolina at Denver	7 p.m.	
	Cincinnati at Arizona	8:30 p.m.	
	Indianapolis at Houston	7 p.m.	
	New Orleans at Kansas City	7 p.m.	
	San Diego at San Francisco	7 p.m.	FOX
Sunday, August 11	**Pittsburgh at Green Bay**	**7 p.m.**	**TNT**
	Miami at Chicago	noon	NBC
Monday, August 12	New England at Dallas	7 p.m.	ESPN

WEEK 3

Thursday, August 15	Oakland at Atlanta	7 p.m.	ESPN
Friday, August 16	Cincinnati at Washington	7 p.m.	
Saturday, August 17	**Green Bay at Baltimore**	**6 p.m.**	**state**
	Arizona at San Diego	9 p.m.	
	Buffalo at Carolina	6:30 p.m.	
	Chicago at New Orleans	7 p.m.	
	Denver at Dallas	7 p.m.	FOX
	Detroit at Houston	7 p.m.	
	New York Giants at New York Jets	7 p.m.	
	St. Louis at Kansas City	7 p.m.	
	Seattle at Indianapolis	6 p.m.	
	Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh	5 p.m.	
Sunday, August 18	Philadelphia at New England	noon	NBC
	San Francisco at Jacksonville	7 p.m.	TNT
Monday, August 19	Minnesota at Miami	7 p.m.	ABC

WEEK 4

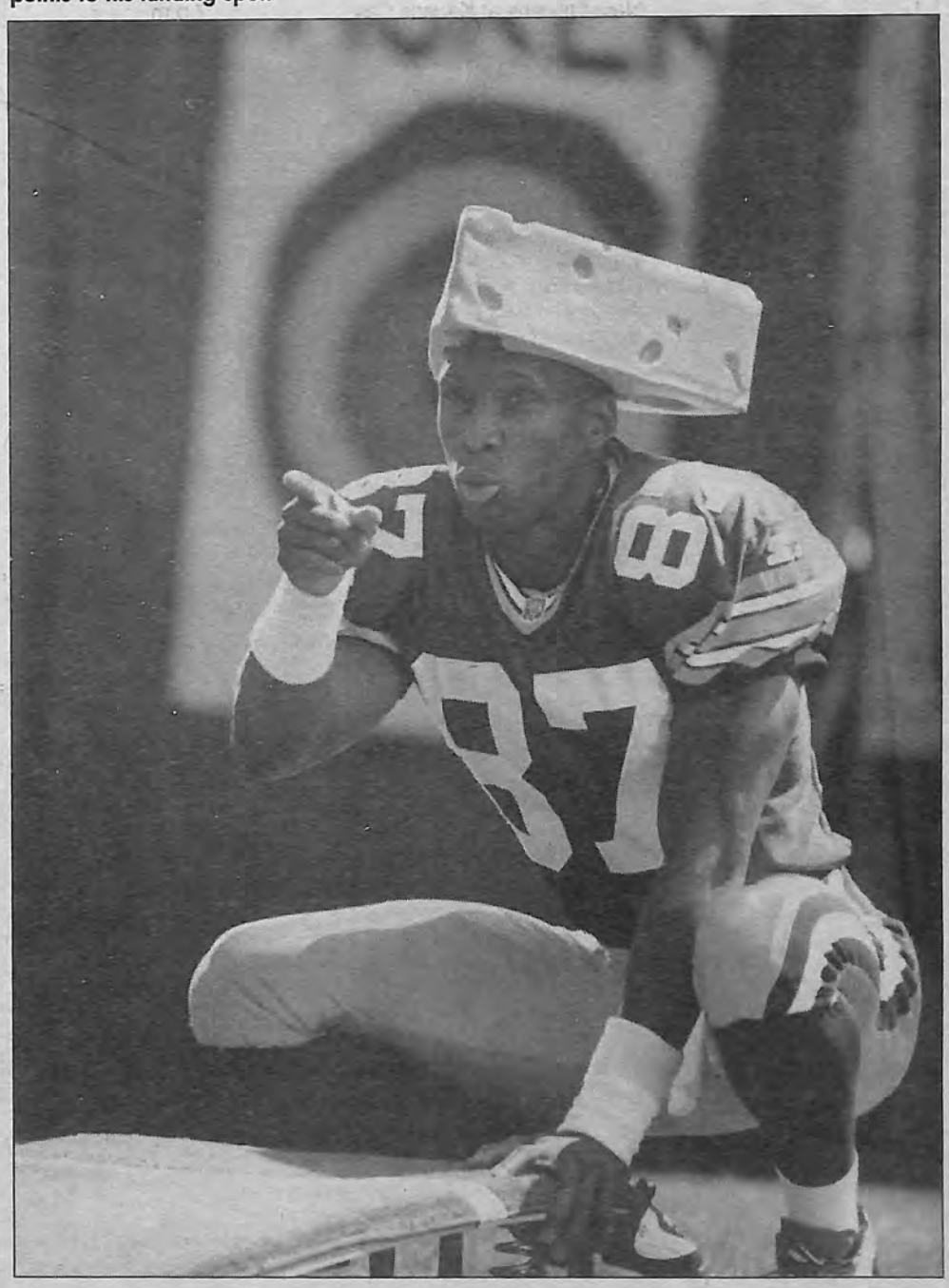
Thursday, August 22	Kansas City at Chicago	7 p.m.	ABC
Friday, August 23	Arizona at Atlanta	6:30 p.m.	
	Baltimore at Buffalo	6:30 p.m.	
	Carolina at New York Giants	7 p.m.	
	Detroit at Cincinnati	6:30 p.m.	
	Jacksonville at Denver	7 p.m.	
	Miami at Tampa Bay	6:30 p.m.	
	Minnesota at New Orleans	7 p.m.	
	New York Jets at Oakland	9 p.m.	
	Pittsburgh at Philadelphia	6:30 p. m.	
	San Diego at St. Louis	7 p.m.	
	San Francisco at Seattle	9 p.m.	
	Washington at New England	7 p.m.	
Saturday, August 26	**Green Bay at Indianapolis**	**6 p.m.**	**FOX**
	Dallas vs. Houston at Orlando, Fla.	5:30 p.m.	



Photos by Allen Fredrickson

Showtime!

A crew from NFL Films, New York, was at Lambeau Field for a few days during the recent Packers June minicamp to produce a promo, starring wide receiver Robert Brooks and guard Aaron Taylor, for Fox Television. About 50 Packer fans were rounded up for the promo, which will air during one of Fox's preseason telecasts in August. The promo begins when Brooks tells Taylor that he wants the 305-pound guard to jump into the stands with him after he scores a touchdown in a show of appreciation for Taylor's blocking. Top photo, Taylor, in aviator's helmet, looks up during filming after he crashes (he was actually placed) into the stands. Bottom photo, Brooks, sporting a cheesehead hat that he exchanged with a fan for a pair of gloves, points to his landing spot.



Packers '96 schedule

Preseason Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Friday, Aug. 2	New England Patriots (Bishop's Charities Game)	7 p.m.	state
Sunday, Aug. 11	Pittsburgh Steelers (Midwest Shrine Game)	7 p.m.	TNT
Saturday, Aug. 17	at Baltimore Ravens	6 p.m.	state
Saturday, Aug. 24	at Indianapolis Colts	7 p.m.	FOX

Regular Season Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Sunday, Sept. 1	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	3 p.m.	FOX
Monday, Sept. 9	Philadelphia Eagles	8 p.m.	ABC
Sunday, Sept. 15	San Diego Chargers	noon	NBC
Sunday, Sept. 22	at Minnesota Vikings	noon	FOX
Sunday, Sept. 29	at Seattle Seahawks	3 p.m.	FOX
Sunday, Oct. 6	at Chicago Bears	noon	FOX
Monday, Oct. 14	San Francisco 49ers	8 p.m.	ABC
Sunday, Oct. 20	Open date		
Sunday, Oct. 27	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	noon	FOX
Sunday, Nov. 3	Detroit Lions	noon	FOX
Sunday, Nov. 10	at Kansas City Chiefs	noon	FOX
Monday, Nov. 18	at Dallas Cowboys	8 p.m.	ABC
Sunday, Nov. 24	at St. Louis Rams	7 p.m.	ESPN
Sunday, Dec. 1	Chicago Bears	noon	FOX
Sunday, Dec. 8	Denver Broncos	noon	NBC
Sunday, Dec. 15	at Detroit Lions	noon	FOX
Sunday, Dec. 22	Minnesota Vikings	noon	FOX

All times are Central Daylight Time

Post-Season Dates

Dec. 28-29, 1996 – AFC and NFC Wild Card Playoffs
Jan. 4-5, 1997 – AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs
Jan. 12, 1997 – AFC and NFC Championship Games
Jan. 26, 1997 – Super Bowl XXXI at Superdome, New Orleans, La.
Feb. 2, 1997 – AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at Honolulu, Hawaii

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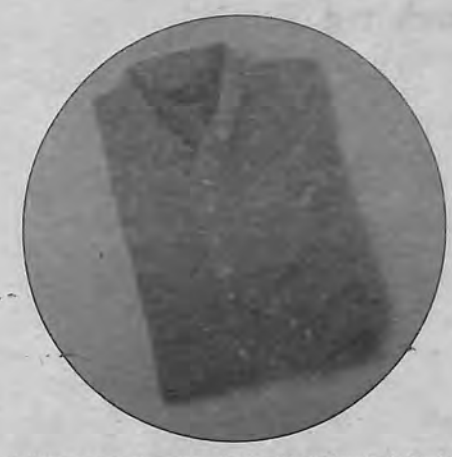

AP08. Long sleeve green denim shirt w/America's Pack logo on left chest. **$48.00.**
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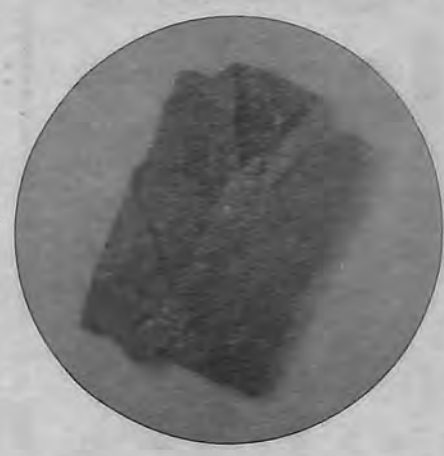

AP09. Long sleeve blue denim shirt w/America's Pack logo on collar. M-XXL. **$48.00.**
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AP09 Medium and Large Only

AP10. Long sleeve khaki denim shirt w/America's Pack logo on right sleeve. M-XXL. **$48.00.**
SALE $30.00
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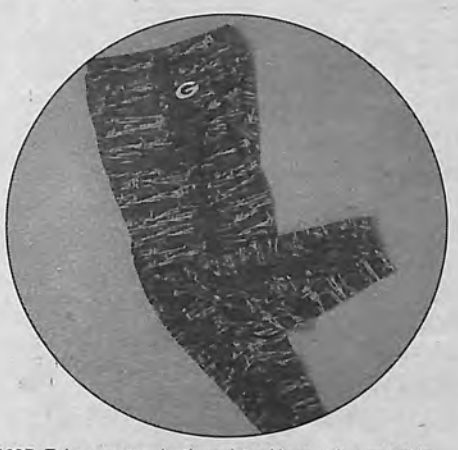
AP05. Heavy weight forest sweatshirt w/America's Pack logo on left chest. M-XXL. **$37.00.**
SALE $23.00
AP16-M, AP16A-L, AP16B-XL, AP16C-XXL

AP17. Green medium weight sweat with GBP logo on left chest. M-XXL. **$41.00.**
SALE $30.00
AP17-M, AP17A-L, AP17B-XL, AP17C-XXL

AP23. Natural T-shirt. America's Pack 100% natural logo T-shirt. **$15.00.**
SALE $7.00
Medium Only



162P. Zubaz pants, elastic waist w/draw string and side pockets. **$29.50.**
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108PB. Packer G Patch Tumbler. Set of 4. Shatterproof, dishwasher and microwave safe, clear. **$29.95.**
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AP25. Turtle neck. Forest Green and white mock turtle neck with embroidered America's Pack logo. M-XXL. $20.00. SALE WHITE ONLY $14.00
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letters to the editor

On the right track

Dear Packer Report,

As an avid Packer Backer for 26 years and a recovering substance abuser for six years, I was interested and surprised to hear about Brett Favre's situation. I felt compelled to write with the intention of Brett reading this and others in the same situation.

Most or all of this is no one's business, but Brett is in the public's eye. Brett has to realize he has to do this for himself first and foremost. This isn't a matter of looking good for everyone but getting your life back.

After reading some of Brett's comments and quotes in the paper, it sounds as though he's got an idea of his situation and sounds like he is on the right track – if he keeps his priorities straight.

Anyway, the best of wishes and may God be with Brett and anyone else trying to recover.

Eric Westmorland,
Milan, Ill.

110% behind Favre

Dear Mr. Brett Favre,

I am writing this letter in regards to the information released by the Packer organization about your situation. I feel it took a real man to do what you did (unlike others in the league). I, as a Green Bay Packer fan, just want you to know that I support your decision to seek out help. I work in a hospital as a Respiratory Care Practitioner and can relate to your situation. I see a lot of people come into hospitals and leave with a potential for drug addiction.

I know as an organization, the Packers, Mike Holmgren, Ron Wolf and the whole organization are 110 percent behind you. I also read a statistic the other day stating that the Green Bay Packers have the most loyal fans in the NFL. So you have us behind you 110 percent. As fans, we expect you and the team to put out a 110 percent effort and in return we support you 110 percent. The Packer organization is truly a "family."

We have seen you develop over the past four years into a *great* quarterback and we look forward to many years of watching you and the Packers re-establish the team and the organization as a No. 1 contender. I have talked with people who have personally met and talked with you. They told us you were very down to earth and personable. I don't know if you will personally read this letter, but I just want you to know you have my total support and prayers.

Sincerely,
Randy Moss
Ceras, Calif.

Backing Brett

Dear Packer Report,

Being a Packer fan since the 1950s, I want to say how proud I am of our Packers. Who isn't?

Like most, I was stunned by Brett's announcement of a painkiller addiction. I was very relieved to find out that he is seeking help. And, yes, I for one am behind Brett 100 percent and know that he will lick this obstacle.

If Brett has any doubts about Packer loyalty to players, I suggest he look back to the 1960s when Paul Hornung was suspended one year for gambling. When he came back, everyone was for him and backed him to the fullest.

So remember Brett, you are a part of the Packer family and we believe.

Steven Wollet
Boca Raton, Fla

Clips for good luck

Dear Packer Report,

When the predictions of anything from second to last place divisional finishes for the Pack came out last year and I thought of all the players gone by retirement or free agency, I thought maybe they're right. Except for only a handful of players, this was Wolf's and Holmgren's team. It was time to put up or shut up. They put up.

After the season was over, I thought that six plays made would have put the Pack at 15 and 1. Then I realized that six plays that were made kept them from being 6 and 10. The Packers are better because they have more guys who make plays. Thank you Mr. Wolf and Coach Holmgren. I'm looking forward to seeing what plays the new Packers will make in 1996.

I have only one suggestion. It looks like five games on plastic grass this year. Have the grounds keepers save the clippings off of Lambeau Field this summer. Then when the Pack plays on turf, have the equipment guys put some of those clippings in the players' shoes. That might make for a 16 and 0 season, or maybe more plays made might help.

Go Pack! Kick the Niners again. Beat the Cowboys like a rented mule. Play hard. Have fun.

DuWayne Fretty
Stanton, N.D.

Sick of the 'Boys

Dear Packer Report,

After reading the article entitled "Reflections from Texas Stadium" in 'Letters to the Editor' of your March issue, I felt compelled to write and express my anger.

Why should we expect any better of Cowboy fans than we've learned to expect from the Cowboys themselves? We all know what they're capable of – illegal pick plays and nasty chop blocks! That should be illegal!

The Dallas "officials," the ones that hold a "position of authority" certainly set wonderful examples!

You would hope that when lives are at stake, not to mention all the possible injuries, morality would be more of an issue. Apparently both the Cowboys and their fans are lacking in that area.

I feel, without a doubt, the "Dallas Cowpies" are now the Packers' biggest rivals. At least in the fans hearts!

I wrote a poem back in January in honor of the "Cowpies" professed win and decided to send it in. I thought it fit.

The Packers are definitely a team we can all be proud of. Truly "America's Team."

Congratulations to the entire team and staff on an excellent season! Good luck in the next championship year. Go Packers!

"Ode to the Cowboys"
You won the game that Sunday,
this we know is true.
We watched, we saw, we wondered
and our awareness grew.

You didn't do it by yourself,
the help you had was great.
We wonder what you had to pay
those guys to officiate.

We saw it doesn't matter
how you win the game.
Just wait til next year buddies.
It won't be quite the same.

We'll watch our backs for sure next time
you won't catch us again.
We won't expect fair play from you,
you're not that kind of men.

We sure hope it was worth it,
That game you won you say.
Your dignity and honor
were lost to you that day.

Sara Szymkowski
(A loyal anti-Dallas "Packer" fan)
Eagle, Wis.

New hope

Dear Packer Report:

Writing to say it's almost inconceivable to think that this year the Packers wouldn't be going to the Super Bowl. I definitely see the Pack as the new darling of the national sports media in '96-'97. Definitely!

But considerations of the other NFL teams have to be taken into the puzzle.

They all have a "talent territory." Territory has borders. Paying millions of dollars for shorter term players than who they've got is nuts. NFL teams for the most part are surgically going through Frankenstein 45. (45 players) Whether it's location, coaches or players. Let's dig it up or tear it apart. Then let's sew it up and hope our fusion reactor will detonate a team. How long have Favre, Bennett, Brooks, White, Jones, Chmura, Ruettgers and more been together? That's a team! It's like life itself. It has to have time to grow.

Ron Wolf, Mike Holmgren and coaches have installed a new contemporary yet long-range dynasty. A new dynasty theory. Not an overbearing focused dynasty but a playoff dynasty.

Keep your opponent guessing always. It's ingenious. They work. These guys know how to work. And so do the players.

Not like Dallas who still believes their oil money cures all ills. After recently playing back the NFC Championship Game on video, watching the Dallas Cowboys was like filing your fingernails with fine grade wood sandpaper. Championships go deeper than a fat wallet. Lombardi proved that.

My respect and admiration to Wolf, Holmgren and especially Gil Haskell. Welcome back Gil and all the best ahead. I don't know you guys personally, but you and the players have given me new hope as a Packer fan. I mean that from the heart. You guys have moved us more than you really know. For 1995-96 season I say thank you from a man who has watched the Pack since 1964. I'm 40 now. I didn't understand the game yet at 9 but I knew it was important and was going to be the rest of my life.

Sincerely,
Bob Durst
Madison, Wis.

Requirements

Letters to the *Packer Report* are welcome, but must be limited to 350 words. They must be signed with a name, address and phone number. The *Packer Report* reserves the right to reject or edit letters. Writers are limited to one letter each 30 days. Typed letters can be faxed to (414) 497-6519, or send letters by conventional mail to:

Packer Report
"Letters to the editor"
1317 Lombardi Access Road
Green Bay, WI 54304

Springing into NFL

Dear Packer Report,

I am a lifelong Packer fan who enjoys reading the *Packer Report*. I especially look forward to Art Daley's column. Mr. Daley provides unique historical insight into the rich tradition of the Green Bay Packers.

I was particularly interested in Mr. Daley's column in the May/June issue regarding final draft choices by the Packers in recent years ("Last pick not always least"). He stated in that column that Adam Timmerman was the first player to make it out of South Dakota State since Weert Engelmann, 1930-33. It was not clear whether Mr. Daley meant the first to make it with the Packers or the first to play professional football since Engelmann. Regardless, neither of these assertions is correct.

Regarding the latter, no less than two dozen former Jackrabbits have played professional football. All but two have played since Engelmann completed his career with the Packers. They include prominent professionals such as Pro Bowl receiver Pete Retzlaff of the Eagles, longtime Lions defensive back Wayne Rasmussen, and Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Langer of the Dolphins. Of those who played for the Packers, Paul "Whitey" Miller followed Engelmann, playing halfback for three seasons (1936-38).

SDSU and other North Central Conference schools have produced numerous professional football players and will continue to do so. The Packer Report's continued recognition of their accomplishments will be very much appreciated.

Gary L. Hansen
Eagan, Minn.

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All ads must be mailed to: Packer Report "Want Ads," 1317 Lombardi Access Road, Green Bay, WI 54304. Or fax: (414) 497-6519.

WANTED: One share of Green Bay Packer stock. Please call Ron 715-524-2817 days or 715-758-8603 nights.

WANTED: Chicago Bear Tickets. I am willing to trade 2 Chicago Bear tickets for 2 tickets to either Monday Night Football game. If interested please call Terry at 414-549-5675 after 6 p.m.

PACKER FAN IN GERMANY would like to buy or trade for game day program and ticket stub from Packers' 1/14/96 NFC Championship Game vs. Dallas Cowboys. Have program and ticket stub from 1/6/96 NFC Playoff Game at 49ers playoff game available for trade on 1:1 basis. Also looking for program and ticket stub from 1939 NFL Championship Game played at the State Fair Grounds in Milwaukee. All replies answered. John Savee, Elektrastrasse 22A, 81925 Munich, Germany. Telephone: (011-49-89) 910-1848.

STRIKE MOVIES WANTED: Documentary filmmaker seeks home movies on 1974 NFL players' strike including players picketing, fans protesting and police arresting players. Call Jeff Meyers at 805-648-3952.

WANTED: One or two shares of Green Bay Packer stock. Please write or call Craig Winchester, 920 Cleveland St., Beloit, WI 53511. 608-363-1712.

WANTED: One or more shares of the Green Bay Packers stock. Please call Mike at 703-490-4221.

WANTED: Looking for place to watch the Pack in Canton, Ohio. Please call Don at 330-493-8257 (office phone: leave message on voice mail if no answer) or write to Don Kotnik, P.O. Box 35640, Canton, OH 44735.

WANTED TO BUY OR TRADE FOR: One or two shares of Packer stock, I have many Brett Favre cards and all the Packer team sets. Write or call Joe Meyers, 712 Elizabeth Ave., Marinette, WI 54143, 1-715-732-2453.

WANTED: 1962 and 1963 Packer Yearbooks to complete set. Call Nick at 847-623-8151.

WANTED: Packer Throw Back Jersey, authentic style as worn during 1995 season. Also any authentic Packer jerseys pre-1970 and unused tickets or ticket stubs from any Packer championship or playoff games, 414-336-9796 Dennis.

WOULD LIKE to buy one or two shares of Green Bay Packer stock. Also would like literature on homes for sale/rent and apartments for rent in the Green Bay area. Al Lowery, PSC 80 Box 17889 APO AP 96367-7899. I'm currently stationed in the Air Force overseas on Okinawa, Japan.

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Jeff DeGarmo shows no mercy for the Cowboys at the golf outing.

Photos by Katie Doyle

Packers' defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur poses for a photo with a fan during the America's Pack Ultimate Party at Lambeau Field on June 8.

Weekend of fun and games

The Green Bay Packers recently finished their third and final minicamp of the off-season, but it also was time for hardcore Packer fans to have their own two-day minicamp.

It began on June 7 when more than 150 people gathered for the second annual *Packer Report* golf outing. The next day, about 700 Packer fans met at Lambeau Field for the America's Pack Ultimate Party.

For many who attended one or both of the events, it was a time to talk football. It was time to reminisce a little over last season and a time to talk about the team's chances of making it to the Super Bowl with some of their favorite players and coaches. It was also time to start ripping on the Dallas Cowboys or Chicago Bears.

"We're going to kick Dallas all over the field," said Jackie Lenandowski of Eagle River during the Ultimate Party. "They're going to come home this time as champs. They're always champs, but this year they're going to bring home the Super Bowl trophy."

Many fans naturally showed off their pride in the Packers by wearing green and gold. Some of the cars in the parking lot were even painted green and gold. But the Ultimate Party at Lambeau Field was truly an ultimate experience for some.

"This is the coolest place I've ever been in," said Bobby Sims, 13, from Indianapolis.

It was Sims' first trip to Lambeau. Sims had a chance to get his football autographed by number-one draft choice and offensive tackle John Michels, second-round pick Derrick Mayes, defensive ends Shannon Clavelle and Matt LaBounty, cornerback Craig Newsome, defensive tackle Darius Holland and tight ends coach Andy Reid. They were among a number of players and coaches at the Ultimate party.

The Ultimate Party and golf outing each had record turnouts. The hurricane-like weather that greeted golfers on June 7 improved to sunny but cool, football-like conditions for the Ultimate Party, which was held in the stadium concourse.

"I don't mind the cool, that doesn't bother me," said Duane Stump of Nappanee, Ind. "There's more people this year than last year when it was a little easier to get around, but, hey, it's worth it. I love Green Bay."

So does former Bears' fan Ann Busse of Sycamore, Ill. Busse, 42, used to root for Chicago until her friend Linn Nelson of Cudahy persuaded her to attend a game last season in Green Bay.

"I came to Lambeau and that was it. The fans, the team ..." said Busse, who gave all of her Bears clothing away.

Maybe there's hope for other Bears fans.

America's Pack upcoming events

July 26-28: Air-it-Out Flag Football Tournament, Little Suamico Recreation Park

Aug. 1: Packer Eve Party at "The Bar" in Green Bay

Aug. 2: New England Patriots at Green Bay tailgate, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., members free/$15 general public

Aug. 10: Packer Eve Party at The Bar in Green Bay

Aug. 11: Pittsburgh Steelers at Green Bay tailgate, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., members free/$15 general public

Aug. 19: America's Pack 2nd Annual Golf Outing (Greenwood Hills, Wausau), noon

Sept. 1: Green Bay Packers at Tampa Bay tailgate, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (ET), members free/$12 general public

Sept. 8: Packer Eve Party at The Bar in Green Bay

Sept. 9: Philadelphia Eagles at Green Bay tailgate, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., members free/$15 general public

Sept. 14: Packer Eve Party at The Bar in Green Bay

Sept. 15: San Diego at Green Bay Tailgate, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., members free/$15 general public

Sept. 22: Green Bay Packers at Minnesota tailgate, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., members free.

Sept. 29: Green Bay Packers at Seattle tailgate, members free.

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Boy lived for Pack until day he died

I'd like to tell you about my son, Lee Prochnow, who was a "Super Fan." Lee had Duchene Muscular Dystrophy and was in a wheelchair for most of his life. A few years ago Lee became a Packer fan. He collected football cards and his most cherished card was one he mailed to Reggie White. Reggie autographed it and mailed it back.

Because of Lee's M.D., he was most comfortable in sweatpants. At least 90 percent of the time he would be wearing Packer sweatpants, sweatshirts, T-shirts, socks, underwear, etc. He had a beautiful quilt on his bed made by his Great Aunt with Packer emblem fabric and he had Packer blankets, sheets and pillowcases. His bedroom was decorated with posters and pictures of White, Brett Favre, John Jurkovic and other Packers.

Lee would *never* miss a Packer game. Lee's aide at school, Kim McCallum, described him in the Slinger High School *Nite Crier* as "the greatest Packer fan around" and is probably "up there tossing the football with Vince Lombardi."

Everyone in the family knew Lee was a Packer fan. We would talk Packers with him and give him gifts with the Packer emblem. Lee's Uncle Jeff knew a photographer who got Lee a Green Bay Packer hat with Favre's autograph and pictures of Brett signing the hat. What a thrill for Lee! Jeff also took Lee to the Packer Hall of Fame and on Labor Day of 1995 he took him to the *Mike Holmgren Show*. It was a highlight of Lee's life since he never missed watching Coach Holmgren's show.

Lee had a cold last December 12 and did not go to school. His aide called me at work about 11 a.m. and said Lee had trouble breathing. She had called the Rescue Squad and they took him to the hospital but he had died and gone to heaven before they got him to the hospital. Lee was buried in his Packer sweatpants, No. 92 jersey over his Packer turtleneck and silk Packer boxer shorts. The flowers on Lee's casket were gold roses. There were bouquets of flowers in gold and green with Packer pennant and the No. 4 and No. 92. That week it was doubtful that White would play but that night at the funeral home, the first thing the Pastor told us was that Reggie was going to play. Everyone who knew Lee was sure that he had talked to God when he got to heaven and asked him to heal Reggie. When Yancy Thigpen did not make that catch, we all knew Lee had asked God for help again!

Lee's gravestone will have a football with a "G," and I plan to plant marigolds in the shape of a "G" on his grave.

I would like to thank the Packers for being such good role models, especially Reggie White.

Sincerely,
Linda Prochnow
Hartford, Wis.

"Super Fan"

Here's your chance to tell everyone how big of a Packers fan you really are and get your picture in the *Packer Report*. In 300 words or less, describe why you root for the Packers and how long you've been a fan. Include any unique Packers-related story or adventure. Include a non-returnable photo and send to:

PACKER REPORT
"Super Fan"
1317 Lombardi Access Road
Green Bay, WI 54304

Lee Prochnow, center, poses with tight end Mark Chmura, left, and nose tackle John Jurkovic at a charity basketball game in 1992.

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You won't find a stadium with a roof on top ... you won't see a field of plastic grass that is immune to dirt and mud. And if you get hungry watching the game, you're truly missing out on something special if you don't order a bratwurst with plenty of mustard and onions.

From hot summer breezes to cold winter freezes, Packers fans everywhere know the game of football was meant to be played this way. And if last season was any indication, the Packers' return to glory is closer than you think.

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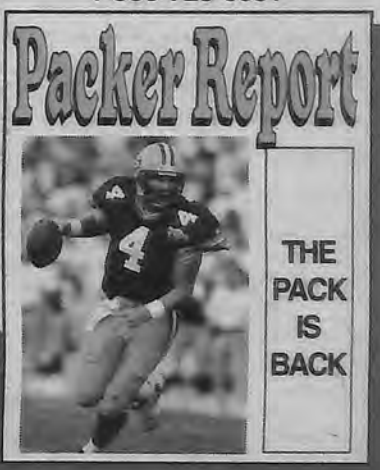

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☆ PACKER PEEWEE OF THE MONTH ☆

Wears dad's jersey for luck

My name is Christian McClure. I will be 2 years old on July 26.

My daddy is crazy about the Packers and he says I will be too. He dresses me up in his old Packer jersey and knit cap on game days. He says it's good luck! He let me sleep in his jersey all week before the title game against Dallas. I already know how to say "touchdown" and "Go, go" when the Pack has the ball.

Some day my daddy and I will go to Green Bay and see a game. We need tickets! I also have a little brother named Jonathan. He was born last Turkey Day. Let's hope he's not a Lions or Cowboys fan. Go Pack Go! Bye-bye.

Christian McClure
(assisted by father Fred)
Mission Viejo, Calif.

If you know a Packer Peewee or are related to one, let us know! The Packer Report will feature one peewee per issue. Please include a non-returnable photo and any interesting tidbits about the peewee, and send to: Packer Report, "Packer Peewee," 1317 Lombardi Access Road, Green Bay, WI 54304.

Christian McClure, who will turn two on July 26, signals a touchdown.

Photo by James V. Biever

New tractor makes the cut

Vernon J. Biever (seated), official photographer for the Green Bay Packers and contributing photographer for the *Packer Report*, tries out the new Packer Backer Tractor to be produced by Simplicity Manufacturing Inc., Port Washington, Wis. Company president Warner C. Frazier recently showed Biever the unit at Simplicity headquarters. Simplicity will be limited to fewer than 500 units this year by a contract with the Packers and NFL Properties, according to Frazier. Each unit, which will retail in the $3,000 to $3,500 range, carries the color scheme of the Packers helmet and has a face guard on the grill. Customers can also request the number of their favorite Packer. The first of the new tractors, which were quickly purchased by about 80 Simplicity dealers soon after the May 30 announcement, will start rolling off the assembly line in August.

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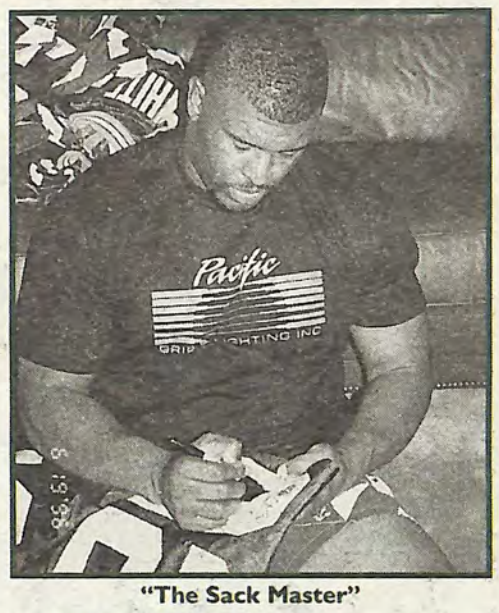

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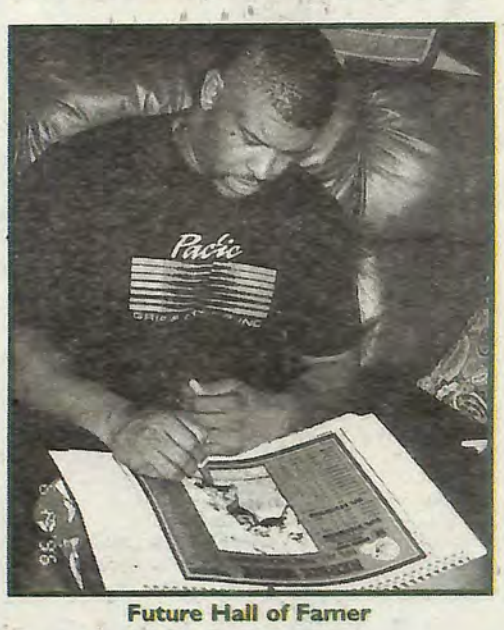

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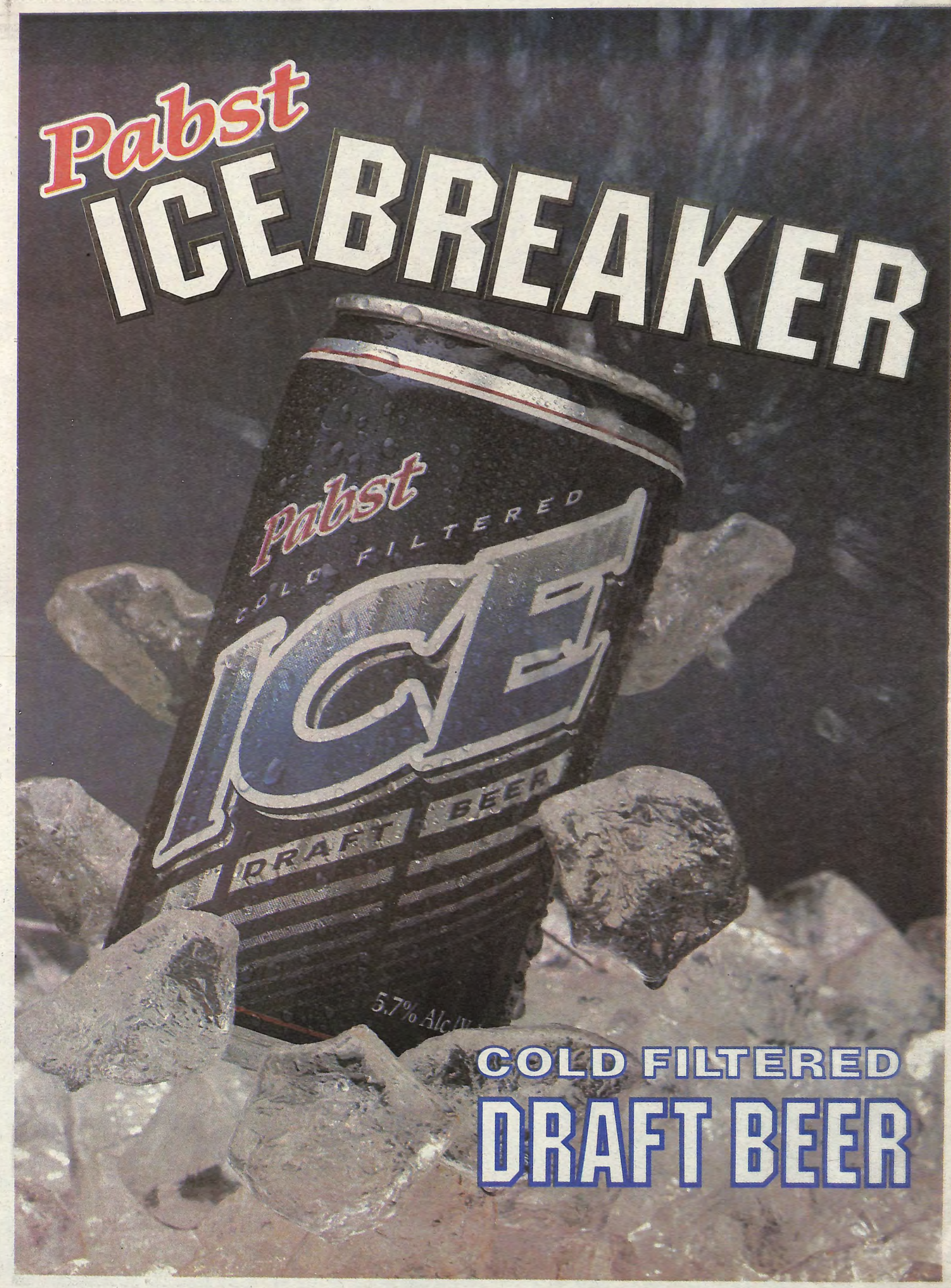
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